

Council Forum

Thursday, 21 July 2016

AGENDA

PART I: ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PUBLIC

- 1 Chief Executive to read the notice convening the meeting**
- 2 Prayers by the Mayor's Chaplain**
- 3 Apologies for absence**
- 4 Minutes**

To receive and confirm the minutes of 21st April 2016 and the Annual Council meeting held on 19th May 2016

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MINUTES Annual Council 19th May 2016	13 - 24
- 5 Declarations of Interest in Items on this Agenda**

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FORM **25 - 26**
- 6 Mayoral Communications**
- 7 Council Forum**

To consider questions from members of the public received under Procedure Rule 10
- 8 To consider motions submitted under Procedure Rule 12 as follows:**

HATE CRIME

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council condemns racism, xenophobia and hate crime unequivocally. WE will not allow hate crime to become acceptable.

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council will work to

ensure local bodies and programmes have support needed to fight and prevent racism and we reassure all people living in Blackburn with Darwen that they are valued members of our community.

Moved by Mohammed Khan

Seconded by Phil Riley

9	Constitution and Pay Policy Update	
	To approve the recommendations in the report.	
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10	Policy and Corporate Resources Committee	
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13	2016/17 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy(MTFS) Update To approve the recommendations in the report. 2016-17 Budget and Medium Financial Strategy (MTFS) Update	95 - 104
14	To consider any questions received from Members under Procedure Rule 11	

PART 2: ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE

**PART 2 – THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC MAY BE
EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE
FOLLOWING ITEMS**

COUNCIL FORUM
Thursday, 21st April 2016

PRESENT – *The Mayor, Councillor F Hussain (in the Chair), Councillors H. Akhtar, P. Akhtar, Ali, Bateson, Brookfield, Browne, Casey, Connor, Cottam, Daley, Entwistle, Evans, D. Foster, K. Foster, Gee, Groves, Hardman, Harling, Hollings, Humphrys, I. Hussain, S. Hussain, Jan-Virmani, Johnson, Kay, M. Khan, Z. Khan, S. Khonat, Liddle, A. Mahmood, Q. Mahmood, Maxfield, McFall, McKinlay, Nuttall, Oates, O’Keeffe, Patel, Colin Rigby., Jean Rigby., Riley, Roberts, Shorrocks, Sidat, Jacqueline Slater, John Slater, Julie Slater, D. Smith, J. Smith, Surve, Talbot, Tapp, Taylor, Vali, Whalley, and Wright.*

RESOLUTIONS

79. Notice Convening Meeting

The Chief Executive read out the notice convening the meeting.

80. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Desai, Gunn, Lee, Mulla, Pearson, Rehman, and Whittle.

81. Minutes of the Finance Council meeting held on 29th February 2016

The minutes of the Finance Council meeting held on 29th February 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

82. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations were received.

83. Mayoral Communications

The Mayor updated Members on recent events and activities including:

The Mayors Ball, which had raised a good amount of money, for which the Mayor thanked all who attended and helped out.

Reference was made to the ceremony held on March 14th which marked Commonwealth Day in the Borough. Additionally Council were advised that a German exchange trip with St Wilfred’s school and a “Breaking Boundaries” event had formed part of his busy itinerary.

In conclusion the Mayor thanked all Members for their continued support throughout the year, especially Councillors Paul Browne, Adbul Rehman, Tom Evans and Ron O’Keeffe, for whom this would be their last meeting.

84. Questions from members of the public received under Procedure Rule 10.

Council were advised that no questions had been received from the public.

85. Motions submitted under Procedure Rule 12

Council Forum was advised that one Notice of Motion had been submitted under Procedure Rule 12, as follows:

This Council notes the recent announcement by the Conservative government that all schools will be forced to become academies, or have plans to do so, by 2020.

This Council regrets that local people will not be consulted and though the government claims to be a supporter of localism this decision is being taken out of the hands of local people.

This Council opposes the move to remove any requirement to have parents on the governing body of schools so that they will no longer be accountable to the local community.

We resolve to ask the Chief Executive to write to our two local MPs asking them to oppose any legislation that will force schools to become academies.

The Motion was Moved by Councillor David Foster and Seconded by Councillor Karimeh Foster who reserved the right to speak.

In Moving the Motion Councillor Foster made reference to asset stripping of government community schools, the academisation of Darwen Vale, and the last parliamentary report on Education which offered no substantial evidence that Academy status improved a schools performance.

At this point Councillor Harling Moved an amendment to the Motions which was Seconded by Councillor John Roberts, which read as follows:

“Amendment to CF Motion 21st April 2016 (Insert bold text and delete rest)

This Council notes the recent announcement by the Conservative government that all schools will be forced to become academies, or have plans to do so by 2020.

*This Council opposes the move to remove any requirement to have parents **or Local Authority representatives** on the governing body of schools so that they will no longer be accountable to the local community.*

This Council does not agree that forced conversion to academies is the only way to improve schools. Research by the Education Select Committee has shown that there is not sufficient evidence to prove that academies improve the achievements of pupils when compared to maintained schools.

This Council has an excellent record of improving schools without the need for them to become an academy. The Government's proposals ignore the various challenges schools presently face such as a recruitment crisis, reductions in their budgets and increases in class sizes. Further, this Council believes that these proposals are part of the government's plan to privatise education in this country, and to further reduce the ability of local government to represent their local communities.

This Council opposes the "asset stripping" proposed by the government that will pass ownership of school land to the Secretary of State. Removing local control over our locally owned land assets is the same as theft by central government.

Recent research has shown that Academies have a track record of selective admissions with more able pupils being accepted in place of less able or disadvantaged children.

This Council believes that local schools should have choice to stay as a maintained school if that is what they wish.

This Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to all the local MPs in Lancashire and the Leaders of the adjacent Upper Tier Councils outlining this Council's opposition to the proposals, and asking them to oppose any legislation that will force schools to become academies.

This Council further instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State to outline the Council's objections to the proposals".

Speaking to the Amendment Councillor Harling welcomed the original Motion but did not feel it went far enough.

There followed a brief discussion on the motion at the end of which a Named Vote was requested on the amendment to the Motion.

For

Councillors: Akhtar (H), Akhtar (P), Bateson, Brookfield, Browne, Casey, Entwistle, Evans, Foster (D), Foster (K), Groves, Gunn, Harling, Hollings, Humphrys, Hussain (F), Hussain (I), Hussain (S), Jan-Virmani, Johnson, Kay, Khan (M), Khan (Z), Khonat (S), Liddle, Mahmood (A), Mahmood (Q), Maxfield, McFall, Nuttall, Oates, O'Keeffe, Patel, Riley, Roberts, Shorrocks, Sidat, Smith (D), Smith (J), Surve, Talbot, Taylor, Vali, Whalley, Wright.

Against

Councillors: None.

Abstention

Councillors: Ali, Connor, Cottam, Daley, Gee, Hardman, Rigby (C), Rigby (J), Slater (Ja), Slater (Jo), Slater (Ju), Tapp.

(Councillor Rehman was not present at the time of the vote)

RESOLVED – The amendment to the Motion be carried.

Further to which a vote then took place on the substantive Motion which was carried.

RESOLVED –

That the Council notes the recent announcement by the Conservative government that all schools will be forced to become academies, or have plans to do so by 2020.

This Council opposes the move to remove any requirement to have parents or Local Authority representatives on the governing body of schools so that they will no longer be accountable to the local community.

This Council does not agree that forced conversion to academies is the only way to improve schools. Research by the Education Select Committee has shown that there is not sufficient evidence to prove that academies improve the achievements of pupils when compared to maintained schools.

This Council has an excellent record of improving schools without the need for them to become an academy. The Government's proposals ignore the various challenges schools presently face such as a recruitment crisis, reductions in their budgets and increases in class sizes. Further, this Council believes that these proposals are part of the government's plan to privatise education in this country, and to further reduce the ability of local government to represent their local communities.

This Council opposes the "asset stripping" proposed by the government that will pass ownership of school land to the Secretary of State. Removing local control over our locally owned land assets is the same as theft by central government.

Recent research has shown that Academies have a track record of selective admissions with more able pupils being accepted in place of less able or disadvantaged children.

This Council believes that local schools should have choice to stay as a maintained school if that is what they wish.

This Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to all the local MPs in Lancashire and the Leaders of the adjacent Upper Tier Councils outlining this Council's opposition to the proposals, and asking them to oppose any legislation that will force schools to become academies.

This Council further instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State to outline the Council's objections to the proposals".

86. Lancashire Combined Authority Proposals

Council considered a report and recommendations which updated members on the progress on the Lancashire Combined Authority proposals, outlined the response to the public consultation exercise and sought agreement for the Council to become a constituent member of a Combined Authority for Lancashire.

RESOLVED – that;

1. The contents of the report be noted
2. The response to the public consultation on the Combined Authority proposals be noted
3. The Council agree to become a constituent member of a Lancashire Combined Authority and submit proposals to do so to the Secretary of State
4. In the interim period, the Council agree to form a shadow Lancashire Combined Authority
5. Any future proposals for a devolution deal with the Government be brought back to Council for agreement

87. Mayoralty 2016/17

Council considered a report on the appointment to the office of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2016/17. Members were reminded by the Leader of the Council that Annual Council formally appoint Members of the Council to the office of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming Municipal year. The Member appointed to the position of Deputy Mayor was normally appointed to the office of Mayor in the following year.

Reference was made to the agreement made at the Council Forum meeting on 25th April 2013, that Labour Mayors would be office in 2015/16 and 2016/17 (Minute No.94 refers). However it was stressed that in the event that the proportionality of the Council changed going forward in a way that would affect the nomination of Mayor for a particular year, a report on this matter would be submitted for Council's consideration.

As such Council were advised that it was the turn of the Labour Group to nominate the Mayor, who in line with usual practice would usually be the

serving Deputy Mayor, which in that case was Councillor Hussain Akhtar. It was also recommended that Council Forum agree the nomination of Deputy Mayor for 2016/17.

The Leader of the Council nominated Councillor Colin Rigby OBE as Deputy Mayor for 2016, which was duly seconded by Councillor Derek Hardman.

RESOLVED –

1. That in line with the usual practice of the Deputy Mayor in current year serving as Mayor the following year, Councillor Hussain Akhtar be nominated to serve as Mayor in 2016/17; and
2. That the Council Forum nominated Councillor Colin Rigby OBE, the Deputy Mayor for 2016/17.

88. Policy and Corporate Resources

The Chair of the Policy and Corporate Resources Committee presented an updated report on the work of the Committee.

RESOLVED – That the report of the Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

89. Reports of Executive Members with Portfolios

Council Forum received and considered reports of the Leader and Executive Member with Portfolios. These were considered as follows:

The Leader, Regeneration, Resources, Schools and Education, Health and Adult Social Care, Children's Services. Environment, Leisure, Culture and Young People, Neighbourhoods Housing and Customer Services.

The Leader of the Council referred to Healthier Lancashire / Pennine Lancashire transformation. Giving updates on image and branding, Your Call, Your Call good neighbour awards and the upcoming elections.

The Executive Member for Regeneration responded to several questions relating to Darwen Markets ranging from Executive Board Decisions, consultations, petitions, and leaflets with conflicting comments.

Councillor Foster requested to Move a Motion under Standing Order 13D. ((d) to refer something to an appropriate body or individual) Following some discussion, the Mayor, using his discretion, granted the request.

The Motion read as follows:

This Council resolves that the issue of the Darwen Three Day Market be referred to the appropriate Scrutiny Committee and defer any decision of the Executive Board.

Several Members questioned the legitimacy of the Motion and referred to due process of the Council and the opportunity to request a Call In once the decision had been made.

Following a lengthy discussion there was a Move to the Vote requested by Councillor Riley, duly seconded by Councillor Kay.

Councillor Karimeh Foster requested a Named Vote, duly seconded by Councillor John Slater.

Voting was as follows:

For

Councillors: Ali, Browne, Connor, Cottam, Daley, Foster (D), Foster (K), Gee, Hardman, O'Keeffe, Lee, Pearson, Rigby Colin, Rigby Jean, Slater (Ja), Slater (Jo), Slater (Ju), Tapp.

Against

Councillors: Akhtar (H), Akhtar (P), Bateson, Brookfield, Casey, Entwistle, Evans, Groves, Harling, Hollings, Humphrys, Hussain (I), Hussain (S), Jan-Virmani, Johnson, Kay, Khan (M), Khonat (S), Liddle, Mahmood (A), Mahmood (Q), Maxfield, McFall, MCKinlay, Nuttall, Oates, Patel, Riley, Roberts, Shorrocks, Sidat, Smith (D), Smith (J), Surve, Talbot, Taylor, Vali, Whalley, Wright.

Abstention

Councillors: Hussain F., (The Mayor).

Councillor Khan (Z), was not present during the vote.

RESOLVED –

That the Motion be lost.

(At 8:39pm the Deputy Mayor took the Chair).

The Executive Members for Regeneration, Schools and Education, Childrens Services, Environment, Culture Leisure and Young People responded to questions on recycling, Care Leavers Awards, the Outstanding Ofsted for Newfield School, Gold Beez Card usage, potholes, and the skate park facility.

90. Questions received under Procedure Rule 11

Council were advised that two questions had been received under Procedure Rule 11 as follows:

From Councillor David Foster to the Executive Member for Regeneration, Councillor Phil Riley:

1. *Can the Executive Member explain why the Freckleton St extension was £1.2 million over budget?*
2. *When will the options report on Darwen Market and associated buildings be published?*

Councillor Foster received a response from the Executive Member for Regeneration to both questions.

Prior to the conclusion of the meeting the Leader of the Council wished to pay tribute to the Members who had chosen not to stand for re-election, explaining that between 5 councillors there were over 90 years of service which was to be commended as a fantastic achievement. Councillor Paul Browne, Councillor Alan Cottam, Councillor Tom Evans, Councillor Ron O`Keeffe and Councillor Abdul Rehman each of those present responding accordingly.

Signed at a meeting of the Council
on the day of
(being) the next ensuing meeting of the Council) by

MAYOR

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday 19th May, 2016

PRESENT – *The Mayor Councillor Faryad Hussain (in the Chair), Councillors Akhtar H., Akhtar P., Ali, Bateson, Casey, Connor, Daley, Davies, Desai, Entwistle, Fazal, Foster D., Foster K., Gee, Groves, Gunn, Hardman, Harling, Hollings, Humphrys, Hussain I., Hussain S., Jan-Virmani, Johnson, Kay, Khan M., Khan Z., Khonat, Lee, Liddle, Mahmood A., Mahmood Q., Marrow, Maxfield, Mulla, Murray, McGurk, McKinlay, Nuttall, Oates, Patel, Pearson, Rigby C., Rigby J., Riley, Roberts, Shorrocks, Sidat, Slater Jacqueline, Slater John., Slater Julie, Slater Neil, Smith D., Smith J., Surve, Talbot, Tapp, Vali and Whittle.*

RESOLUTIONS

1 Notice Convening Meeting

The Chief Executive read the notice convening the meeting.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Stephanie Brookfield, Pat McFall, Trevor Maxfield, Brian Taylor and John Wright.

3 Election of the Mayor for 2016/2017

The Chief Executive asked for nominations for the Office of Mayor of the Borough for the ensuing Council year. Councillor Hussain Akhtar was nominated for Office and declared elected as the Mayor of the Borough for the 2016/2017 Municipal Year.

The newly elected Mayor then assumed the robe and Chain of Office, made and subscribed to the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took the Chair.

4 Election of the Deputy Mayor for 2016/2017

The Chief Executive asked for nominations for the Office of Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the 2016/2017 Council year. Councillor Colin Rigby was nominated for Office and the Mayor declared him elected as Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the 2016/2017 Municipal Year.

The newly elected Deputy Mayor then received his Chain of Office and made and subscribed to the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

5 Tribute to the Newly Elected Mayor

Councillors Colin Rigby and Michael Lee paid tribute to the newly elected Mayor. The Mayor responded and returned thanks for his election.

6 Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor and Mayoress

Councillors Hussain Akhtar and Colin Rigby paid tribute to the retiring Mayor and the Mayoress, for the dedicated work they had undertaken during their term of Office, making reference to the engagements they had attended and activities undertaken in support of the Mayor's chosen charity for the year.

The Mayor, Councillor Hussain Akhtar, presented badges to Councillor Faryad Hussain, Ms Parveen Hussain, Miss Saira Hussain, Miss Romaana Hussain and Graham Brunton. Councillor Faryad Hussain responded to the tributes received and reflected on the many key events of the Mayoral year and thanked all those people who had supported him during 2015/16.

At this point there was a short recess to allow the Mayor and guests to leave the meeting.

(The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Colin Rigby, in the Chair.)

7 Minutes of the last Meeting

It was noted that the minutes of the last meeting of the Council Forum held on 21st April 2016 would be submitted to the next meeting of Council Forum on 21st July 2016.

8 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

9 Local Election Results

The results of the 2016 Local Elections were submitted for information.

RESOLVED – That the Local Election results be noted.

10 Council Appointments for 2016/2017

The Chief Executive referred to his report on the allocation of seats and appointments to Council positions for 2016/2017.

The first draft of the Council Appointments list for 2016/17 was circulated and the Chief Executive noted an amendment to the draft list and advised that a revised list would be circulated to all Members.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That Council notes the appointment of the Executive Board Members;
- 2) That Council notes the Shadow Portfolio Members;
- 3) That appointments be made to the positions detailed in Paragraph 2, subsection 3;
- 4) That Council note the provisions relating to political balance, referred to in Paragraph 3; and
- 5) That decisions on the remaining appointment of Members to Committees be delegated to the Group Leaders to agree the appointments.

11 Appointments to various Groups and Panels for 2016/17.

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the appointment to various Bodies, Groups and Panels for 2016/17.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That in the first instance, (as is usual practice) each of the organisations listed on the outside bodies, and partnership bodies list is contacted to establish;
That their Terms Of Reference / Articles Of Association have not changed and still require Council representation in the same capacity, for the same tenure, and what added value will be mutually brought by such engagement. Subject to which;
- 2) That in the event the Political Group nominations are available before the Annual Meeting the nominations, be confirmed as the Council's representatives to serve until the end of the current Municipal Year; or if a longer period of office is shown, until that date; unless during the Municipal

Year the Leader amends the appointments to take account of changed requirements;

- 3) That fifteen Members be appointed to serve on the panel of Members to deal with Appeals; and
- 4) That appointments to the list of representatives on various Bodies, Groups and Panels be delegated to Group Leaders for decisions.

signed at a meeting of the Council
on the day of
(being the next ensuing meeting of the Council) by

MAYOR

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS FOR 2016/2017

This is the pro-forma for appointments in 2016/2017

The Executive Members and Assistant Executive Members

EXECUTIVE BOARD		
Leader of the Council and Chair of Executive Board	Mohammed Khan	
The following appointments have been made by the Leader of the Council:		
Deputy Leaders of the Council	Phil Riley (senior) Andy Kay	
Vice Chair of Executive Board	Phil Riley	
PORTFOLIOS	Executive Member	Assistant Executive Member
Health & Adult Social Care	Mustafa Desai	Brian Taylor Shaukat Hussain Faryad Hussain
Children's Services	Maureen Bateson	Pat McFall Julie Gunn

Neighbourhood & Prevention Services	Arshid Mahmood	Suleman Khonat
Schools & Education	Dave Harling	Shiraj Vali
Leisure, Culture & Young People	Damian Talbot	Iftakhar Hussain Zamir Khan
Regeneration	Phil Riley	Jamie Groves John Roberts
Resources	Andy Kay	Salim Sidat Ron Whittle
Environment	Jim Smith	Jane Oates Parwaiz Akhtar
The remainder of appointments are for completion by the Group Leaders.		
Opposition Member on Executive Board		
John Slater		

4. Appoint Members of Committees

Committee	Labour	Conservative	Liberal Democrat	Independent
Policy & Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Membership 11 Chair Don McKinlay Vice-Chair	Jim Casey Shaukat Hussain Sylvia Liddle Qesir Mahmood Don McKinlay Jim Shorrocks Naushad Surve	Kevin Connor Keith Murray Neil Slater	David Foster	

Committee	Labour	Conservative	Liberal Democrat	Independent
Kevin Connor				
Regeneration & Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee Membership 11 Chair Naushad Surve Vice-Chair Jim Shorrock	Eileen Entwistle Peter Hollings Yusuf Jan-Virman Suleman Khonat Jim Shorrock Naushad Surve John Wright	Derek Hardman Neil Slater Konrad Tapp		Salim Mulla
Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee Membership 11 Chair Sylvia Liddle Vice-Chair Vicky McGurk	Shiraj Vali Eileen Entwistle Shaukat Hussain Sylvia Liddle Trevor Maxfield Vicky McGurk Don McKinlay Brian Taylor	Julie Daley Michael Lee John Pearson		
Health & Adults Overview and Scrutiny Committee Membership 11 Chair Quesir Mahmood Vice-Chair Tony Humphrys	Tony Humphrys Mike Johnson Quesir Mahmood Jane Oates John Roberts Dave Smith Ron Whittle	Paul Marrow Jacquie Slater Julie Slater	Karimeh Foster	
Call In Committee Membership 9 Chair Kevin Connor		(Committee convened under proportionality rules 6:2:1; as and when required comprised of none Executive Members).		

Committee	Labour	Conservative	Liberal Democrat	Independent
Planning & Highways Committee Membership 15 Chair Dave Smith Vice-Chair Carl Nuttall	Jim Casey Jamie Groves Faryad Hussain Iftakhar Hussain Zamir Khan Suleman Khonat Don McKinlay Carl Nuttall Jane Oates Phil Riley Dave Smith	Imtiaz Ali Derek Hardman Keith Murray Jacquie Slater		
Licensing Committee Membership 13 Chair John Wright Vice-Chair Tasleem Fazal	Jim Casey Tasleem Fazal Peter Hollings Iftakhar Hussain Shaukat Hussain Tony Humphrys Pat McFall Stephanie Brookfield John Wright	Imtiaz Ali Denise Gee John Pearson	Roy Davies	
Audit Committee Membership 6 Chair Salim Sidat Vice-Chair Ron Whittle	Andy Kay Vicky McGurk Salim Sidat Ron Whittle	Colin Rigby	David Foster	
Standards Committee Membership 9 Chair Mike Johnson Vice-Chair	Parwaiz Akhtar Stephanie Brookfield Julie Gunn Mike Johnson Zamir Khan Trevor Maxfield Pat McFall	Michael Lee Julie Slater		
Health & Wellbeing Board Membership 4 Chair	Maureen Bateson Mustafa Desai Mohammed Khan	John Slater		

Committee	Labour	Conservative	Liberal Democrat	Independent
Mohammed Khan				

APPENDIX 2

APPOINTMENT TO GROUPS AND PANELS

Committee	Labour	Opposition
Appeals Panel Membership 15		
Chief Executive's Employment Committee Membership 4	Andy Kay Mohammed Khan Phil Riley	John Slater
Chief Officer's Employment Committee Membership 4	Andy Kay Mohammed Khan Phil Riley	John Slater

The Membership of the Chief Executive and Chief Officer Employment Committees is the Leader of the Council, the two Deputy Leaders and the Leader of the Opposition.

The appointments within Political Groups

LABOUR GROUP	Councillors
Leader	Mohammed Khan
Deputy Leaders	Phil Riley, Andy Kay
CONSERVATIVE GROUP	Councillors
Leader	John Slater
Deputy Leaders	Colin Rigby, Denise Gee
LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP	Councillors
Leader	David Foster
Deputy Leader	Roy Davies

Shadow Cabinet	Shadow Executive Member	Shadow Assistant Executive Member
Health & Adult Social Care	Jacqui Slater	Imtiaz Ali
Children's Services	Julie Daley	John Pearson
Neighbourhood & Prevention Services	Julie Slater	Neil Slater
Schools & Education	Denise Gee	Julie Slater
Leisure, Culture & Young People	Jean Rigby	Paul Marrow
Regeneration	Derek Hardman	Colin Rigby
Environment	Konrad Tapp	Kevin Connor
Resources	Colin Rigby	Keith Murray
Opposition Committee Spokespersons		
Planning & Highways	Derek Hardman	
Licensing	John Pearson	

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP	
Leader	David Foster
Deputy Leader	Roy Davies
Liberal Democrat Spokespersons	
Health & Adult Social Care	Roy Davies
Children's Services	David Foster
Neighbourhood & Prevention Services	Roy Davies
Schools & Education	David Foster
Leisure, Culture & Young People	Karimeh Foster

Regeneration	Karimeh Foster
Resources	David Foster
Environment	Roy Davies
Planning & Highways	David Foster
Licensing	Roy Davies
Standards	David Foster

Note: As a matter of record the following Members have undertaken training in these disciplines and are therefore able to sit or substitute on Planning and Highways or Licensing Committee during the next Municipal Year 2016/17:

The following Members are eligible to attend meetings of the Planning and Highways Committee:

Planning and Highways

Councillors Akhtar (P)., Ali, Casey, Connor, Davies, Entwistle, Fazal, Groves, Gunn, Hardman, Hussain (F), Hussain (I), Hussain (S), Jan-Virmani, Kay, Khan, Khonat, Liddle, Mahmood, Marrow, Maxfield, McFall, McGurk, Murray, Nuttall, Oates, Riley, Roberts, Sidat, Slater (Jacqueline), Slater (John), Slater (Julie), Slater (Neil), Smith (D), Tapp, Vali, Whittle.

The following Members are eligible to attend meetings of the Licensing Committee:

Licensing Training:

Councillors Stephanie Brookfield, Jim Casey, Roy Davies, Tasleem Fazal, Denise Gee, Julie Gunn, Tony Humphrys, Iftakhar Hussain, Shaukat Hussain, Andy Kay, Suleman Khonat, Sylvia Liddle, Pat McFall, Imtiaz Patel, John Pearson, John Roberts, John Slater, Konrad Tapp.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN
ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**

Members attending a Council, Committee, Board or other meeting with a personal interest in a matter on the Agenda must disclose the existence and nature of the interest and, if it is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or an Other Interest under paragraph 16.1 of the Code of Conduct, should leave the meeting during discussion and voting on the item.

Members declaring an interest(s) should complete this form and hand it to the Democratic Services Officer at the commencement of the meeting and declare such an interest at the appropriate point on the agenda.

MEETING: **COUNCIL FORUM**

DATE: **21st JULY 2016**

AGENDA ITEM NO.:

DESCRIPTION (BRIEF):

NATURE OF INTEREST:

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY/OTHER (delete as appropriate)

SIGNED :

PRINT NAME:

(Paragraphs 8 to 17 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Council refer)



REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF HR, LEGAL & CORPORATE SERVICES
TO:	COUNCIL FORUM
ON:	21st JULY 2016

SUBJECT: CONSTITUTION AND PAY POLICY UPDATE

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Council that the Constitution has been updated following changes in organisational structure previously noted and agreed, statutory changes, changes to the delegations following the structural changes and amendments to the Scheme of Delegation to officers in respect of planning applications agreed by the Council on 1st October 2015.
- 1.2 To seek approval to adopt the revised terms of reference for the Audit and Governance Committee as set out in the draft Constitution and to agree the changes to the membership of the Audit and Governance Committee.
- 1.3 The proposed updated Constitution is publicly available on the Council's website with the Agenda for this meeting and is available in printed form in the Group rooms.
- 1.4 To also report the changes re the agreed Pay Policy so the Policy agreed at Finance Council can be updated to reflect the recent national Pay Awards for Chief Executive and Chief Officers.
- 1.5 The current Pay Policy is published on the Council's website.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

To approve:

- a) the amendments made to the Constitution to reflect the resolutions/decisions made at full Council since April 2015:
- b) the amendments made to the Constitution to reflect changes to the portfolios, the senior management structure, the delegations and legislative changes;
- c) the amendments to the terms of reference for Audit and Governance Committee set out in the Constitution.
- d) the amendment to the membership of the Audit and Governance Committee as set out in this report.
- e) the revisions to the Pay Policy.

3. CONSTITUTION UPDATE

The Constitution is a key document setting out the governance framework of the Council. From time to time the constitution needs to be updated to reflect changes in legislation, resolutions passed by Council, portfolio changes made by the Leader, and changes made to the Council management structure and delegations. The Constitution was last updated in April 2015.

The main changes are as follows:

- a) The Long Term Strategic themes, as reported to Policy Council on 3rd December 2015, have now been included.
- b) The functions of Officers identified in Article 12 now includes the Registrar of Birth Marriages and Deaths and makes reference to the statutory posts of Senior Information Risk Officer and the Senior Responsible Officer for RIPA.
- c) As regards the Planning and Highways Committee's powers (Part 3/Section 3), on the 15th May 2016 the Department for Communities and Local Government published a document called "The Planning Applications Decisions - Major and Minor Developments, England". As a result the Government policy now splits development into 3 parts i.e.
 - Largescale Major Developments for 200 dwellings or more; or a site area of 4 hectares or more;
 - Smallscale Major Developments for between 10 and 199 dwellings (inclusive); or a site area of 0.5 hectare and less than 4 hectares;
 - Minor Developments for dwellings, for between 1 and 9 inclusive dwellings, or where a site area is less than 0.5 hectares.

Unfortunately the changes made by the Government do not align with the current in-house arrangements based upon the split being at 50 dwellings or more. For that reason, the amendments that appear in the Draft Constitution as regards the delegations between Planning and Highways Committee and the Director of Planning and Prosperity are introduced to ensure that the current arrangements are continued with.

- d) The Audit and Governance Committee (Part 3/Section 9) reflects the revised terms of reference considered by the Committee in January 2016. The Council needs to agree to the amendments to the terms of reference for Audit and Governance Committee as set out in the draft Constitution. The proposed revision will align the role, function and membership of the Committee with the 'Audit Committees - Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police, published by CIPFA in 2013.

Furthermore it will be noted that in accordance with the new terms of reference under Membership it says:-

"The Committee will consist of 6 members appointed by Full Council. In addition the Executive Member for Resources will also attend each Committee meeting. The Leader of the Council and all Executive Members are precluded from being voting members of the Committee."

With that change Councillor Kay, as Executive Member for Resources, will have to be replaced as a member of the Audit and Governance Committee but will still attend each meeting.

- e) Portfolios for Executive Members (Part 3/Section 15) reflect the new arrangements.
- f) Officer Scheme of Delegation (Part 3/Section 16) together with Proper Officer Provisions (Part 3/Section 17) has also been amended to reflect the current arrangements.

- g) The Access to Information and Decisions and Attendance at Public Meetings Procedure Rules (Part 4/Section 2) has been reorganised to make it easier to read.
- h) Code of Corporate Governance (Part 4/Section 6) - Members will note that following the publication in April 2016 of “Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Guidance Notes for English Authorities (2016 Edition)” by CIPFA & SOLACE the current Code of Corporate Governance will be reviewed during 2016.
- i) The new Chief Officer /Management Board structure has been inserted under Part 8.

4. PAY POLICY UPDATE

The Council approved the Pay Policy for 2016/17 at Finance Council on 29th February 2016. Since that meeting the Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) for Chief Executives of Local Authorities and Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) for Chief Officers of Local Authorities agreed national pay awards of 1% respectively from 1st April each year for 2016/17 and 2017/18. Reflecting these collective agreements recognised by the Council the Pay Policy requires updating to reflect these changes.

5. CONSTITUTION POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Constitutions set out the governance framework for local authorities, which provide the foundations for any local authority that aspires to be effective, progressive and successful.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Local Government Act 2000 requires local authorities to prepare, keep up-to-date and publicise their constitution.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None

9. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

The constitution update reflects changes in legislation. It also reflects various resolutions passed at Council, which would have been subject to an equality assessment, if any.

10. CONSULTATIONS

Council Chief Officers and Members

Contact Officer: David Fairclough, Director for HR Legal & Corporate Services (01254 585642)/
John Bremers, Senior Projects Consultant Legal Services (01254 585815)

Date: 6th June 2016

Background Papers: None

REPORT OF THE POLICY AND CORPORATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

**COUNCILLORS DON MCKINLAY
KEVIN CONNOR**

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR: DENISE PARK.**

DATE: 21th July 2016

First round of meetings

All Overview and Scrutiny Committees will have held their first round of meetings by Council Forum. Executive Members will have taken the opportunity to present their top five priorities and three risks for the forthcoming year. Using this as a guide, along with their own priorities, Members of the Committee will agree outline work programmes for 2016–17 which will be presented to the next Policy and Corporate Resources Committee.

As in the last few years it is vital, as the Council, its partners and other public sector bodies continue to face further financial pressures, that Members work together to minimise expenditure and deliver best value. More so than ever scrutiny needs to demonstrate its own contribution to added value.

This year as in previous years all Members engaged in overview and scrutiny will need to continue to work cross party to ensure the Council delivers its Corporate Plan in an ever increasing difficult environment.

The first Corporate Parenting Specialist Advisory Group of the municipal year will be held on 17th August 2016, with Members being reminded that Corporate Parenting is everyone's responsibility. It was pleasing to see a high turnout of Members attending the group in the previous year.

Looking forwards each Scrutiny Committee will use the summer months to undertake task and finish groups once detailed work programmes have been agreed. I look forward to updating Council at the next Council Forum of the work that has been completed.

Annual Review of Scrutiny;

The Annual Review of Scrutiny was held on the 4th April 2016 and a number of Members were able to attend to contribute to the review of the Scrutiny year.

The Review highlighted the constructive and value driven work by Members working together a cross party, key reviews highlighted by Members included;

- Prevent and Channel: Child sexual exploitation
- Update on Universal Credit for Care Leavers
- Improving outcomes for looked after children and care leavers
- Carers support
- Effectiveness in homecare
- Maximising independence

- Your Call and community activity
- Integration of Care services with National Health services
- Impact and outcomes of BwD public health over the last two years
- The Council's Budget;
- Revenues, Benefits and Welfare Reform;
- CAPITA Review.
- Selective Landlord Licensing
- Partnership Working with Blackburn College
- Capital Projects
- The Growth Agenda
- Parking

Don Mckinlay

Chair

Kevin Connor

Vice Chair

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

COUNCILLOR MOHAMMED KHAN

21 JULY 2016

LANCASHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY

The request to form a Combined Authority for Lancashire has now been submitted to the Secretary of State by the 14 Lancashire councils. Wyre Council have confirmed that they do not want to be part of the Combined Authority. We will continue to engage with them on matters outside of the Combined Authority's remit. We are awaiting formal feedback on the request and further detail on a Parliamentary Order and timescales. This Order will set out the functions, powers and responsibilities for the Combined Authority and we expect this to be laid before Parliament later this year, subject to agreement by all Councils.

On 11th July we had our first shadow Combined Authority meeting. The Leaders have appointed Councillor Simon Blackburn from Blackpool Council as Chair and Councillor Alistair Bradley from Chorley Council as Vice Chair.

It was a very positive meeting with some key matters discussed, including the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Growth Deal 3 bid, One Public Estate proposal, LEP and Combined Authority working relationship and a Forward Plan for the Combined Authority. The next step is to develop a Lancashire Plan which will build on existing strategies and plans across Lancashire to further set out our ambitions for the Combined Authority.

In partnership with the LEP, the Combined Authority will agree the Growth Deal 3 submission. The deadline for submission is 28th July. To date 24 proposals have been put forward from Lancashire totalling £155.95m, significantly above what the LEP is likely to achieve. We will have to prioritise the proposals before final submission with support from both the LEP and Combined Authority.

As we enter this new governance arrangement for Lancashire, the benefits are already beginning to be seen. We have been successful in attracting £50,000 capacity funding from the One Public Estate programme managed by the Local Government Association and Government Property Unit to develop a bid for a further £500,000 which could be used to speed projects such as rationalisation and development of publically owned land and assets, integrated service hubs and opportunities to develop flexible working across public sector organisations. If we are successful in getting onto the One Public Estate programme there is potential to unlock future sources of funding.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRANSFORMATION

Blackburn with Darwen Council continues to play a key role in efforts to transform the health and social care system both locally and across a Lancashire footprint.

The importance of this work cannot be understated. The system needs to change to meet future health and social care challenges we face as well as making sure the resources we do have are used as effectively as possible.

A series of briefings for councillors including one at Blackburn Town Hall was organised by the Healthier Lancashire and South Cumbria Change Programme Team to update members on what is happening on a regional footprint. I hope those members who did attend found them useful.

More locally, the Pennine Lancashire Transformation Programme, which is aligned with the regional change programme, continues to move forward at speed.

A public campaign encouraging the residents to get involved in a conversation about health and social care is starting this month as it is important to hear what the public thinks is going well at the moment as well as what could be better. The ideas gathered from this conversation will help inform any options being developed. I hope members will encourage their constituents to get involved.

The Chief Executive and I both sit on the System Leaders' Forum which oversees the programme and we will both continue to ensure our residents are fully involved in the transformation and able to influence it as it moves forward.

IMAGE AND MARKETING UPDATE

Following the launch of the new place brand and marketing strategy for Blackburn and Darwen in March, work has been underway to put in place a governance structure to make sure we maintain the momentum we have generated

This includes the establishment of a Place board, made up of the steering group originally established to develop the place brand and members of the Hive Business Leaders Network steering group. It is chaired by Mo Isap, who is also Local Strategic Partnership chair, and reports up to the LSP.

The 278-member Hive Business Leaders Network is evolving into the Hive Ambassador network, which will further mobilise the business community into being a 'salesforce' for the borough and will generate income to support the initiative. A formal launch of this programme is likely in the autumn and a 12 month place marketing plan and programme of activity will be developed.

Central resources including graphic files and fonts, photography and templates have been provided and all public, private and voluntary, community and faith sector organisations are being asked to formally commit to using the place brand. The Council has added the brand to its boundary signs and the brand will feature in new

marketing materials for commercial development opportunities. A number of other organisations including Blackburn College, Capita, Youthzone and Blackburn business MGS Plastics have also started to use the brand, with others including Blackburn BID and Darwen Town Centre Partnership planning to do so in the near future. Again, I would urge all members to support this important agenda and continue to talk up the borough as much as possible.

YOUR CALL GOOD NEIGHBOURS AWARDS

A special event to celebrate all those nominated as Good Neighbours will take place on July 29.

The judges, who included myself, the Chief Executive, the Chief Executive of Community Integrated Care Neil Matthewman and Jon Robinson, Deputy News Editor of the Lancashire Telegraph, met to decide the nine winners.

The stories we heard as judges were heart-warming and everyone who had been nominated had really made a difference to the lives of their neighbours. It is incredibly important that we recognise and celebrate those who do make their neighbourhoods better places. I hope their stories will help inspire others. I will update members on how the event went at the next Council Forum.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

DISABLEDGO SERVICE

The provision of comprehensive access information enables people of all ages to confidently access venues and services, building personal resilience and independence. This in turn leads to disabled people accessing and contributing to their own communities and being in a position to improve their own health and wellbeing.

DisabledGo is working in partnership with the Council to provide an access guide to 500 venues covering Blackburn and Darwen. DisabledGo will provide information on all sorts of venues such as: shops, restaurants, leisure centres, hotels, parks, museums, resource centres and many more. From a visitor perspective the service will provide information for all the borough's cultural and leisure venues and accessibility information for key events. Two community engagement events were held on 8th June in Blackburn and Darwen to gather residents' views on which venues should be included in the access guide. The guide will be available online later this year at www.disabledgo.com

EACHSTEP BLACKBURN OPENING

The new Eachstep Blackburn care home for adults with dementia was officially opened by Neil Matthewman (Chief Executive, Community Integrated Care) and Councillor Mohammed Khan on 19th May. The event was well attended with representation from the individuals and families of the three local people who each floor is named after and local agencies such as Blackburn College and One Voice. Guests were provided with a tour of the building and were given the opportunity to see the numerous facilities for residents, including a cinema, garden area, numerous lounge and quiet rooms as well as the facilities in each en-suite bedroom. The overall impression was very positive and the acknowledgement of the heritage of the site and the importance to Blackburn and Darwen was noted. In addition guests were offered tasters of the meals which will be available and saw the catering arrangements which will focus on each person's preference of how they choose their meals and dine, rather than a formal dining room arrangement. The first people to live in the home moved in at the beginning of June.

LEARNING DISABILITY SERVICES REVIEW

We have an ageing learning disabled population many of whom were previously resettled into the community in the early 1990s. Most of these people moved into ordinary houses in the community and would typically share a property with a number of other people with a learning disability. As these people and their properties have got older their needs and circumstances have changed and in some cases people have moved on. This is one of the reasons we are currently undertaking a review of the services on offer for people with a learning disability and their families. We are working closely with our current housing providers to review the suitability of existing tenancies to ensure they are fit for purpose. The number of people we support with a learning disability is gradually increasing and we have more young adults who require a wider range of housing options. We are also working closely with support providers to look at the best way to meet current and emerging needs in the most cost effective manner whilst maintaining quality services. In addition, we continue to explore opportunities to use assistive technology to promote increased independence.

HEALTH

REDUCING ALCOHOL HEALTH HARMS

The Alcohol Strategy for the borough has been in place since 2014 and multi-agency action continues to reduce the local health impact. Recent data from Public Health England has shown a welcome drop in deaths attributable to alcohol in Blackburn with Darwen over the past ten years, with the borough's latest rate of 11.7 per 100,000 people, the lowest in the North West and on a par with the national average.

The Council therefore backs new national guidelines on alcohol consumption, which recommends that no more than 14 units a week are consumed by either men or women, and that the unit intake should be spread over 3 days or more, with several alcohol-free days per week. The guidelines also advise that it is safest not to consume any alcohol when pregnant.

The new guidelines follow another successful Dry January campaign in Blackburn with Darwen. Promoted by the Council and partner organisations including VOICE and substance misuse provider Inspire, almost 500 local people signed up, with many more participating 'unofficially'.

SMOKEFREE AND PLAIN PACKAGING

Smoking remains the biggest single cause of preventable death, illness and disability. In an effort to reduce exposure of children and non-smokers to tobacco smoke, local smokers are being urged to make their homes smokefree in an initiative which follows on from the installation of smokefree signage at play areas in public parks, school playgrounds and Children's Centres in the borough. May 2016 also saw a welcome change in the law, which requires any tobacco on sale in the UK to start to be sold in plain green packaging with dramatic visual health warnings. The legal change follows a North West campaign run by Healthier Futures, which was supported by public health partners including the Council.

WORKWELL WORKPLACE WELLBEING PROGRAMME

A person's work environment has a huge impact on their health and wellbeing. Combining work environment change with healthy lifestyle interventions increases the likelihood of employees adopting healthy behaviours, contributing to a range of health and economic benefits for employees, employers and wider society

WorkWell is our local public health funded Workplace Wellbeing Programme, which supports the development of health and wellbeing opportunities in workplaces across the borough. This includes help to become accredited against the nationally recognised Public Health England Workplace Wellbeing Charter.

Access Ability CIC are celebrating being the first organisation in Blackburn with Darwen to achieve the Workplace Wellbeing Charter having been supported through the process by WorkWell. Access Ability have shown a strong commitment to the wellbeing of their workforce and in recognition of their success have now been asked to share their experience and expertise with other workplaces hoping to gain the award. A further 10 local workplaces are currently set to gain Charter status with support from WorkWell and this figure looks set to grow as more and more businesses see the benefits of a healthy and happy workforce.

NUMBERS OF CHILDREN IN CARE AND OTHER CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE INFORMATION

As at 11 July there were 350 children in care. The number has been steady at this level over the past quarter, but represents a rise across of 19 on the same point in the previous year. This rise returns the borough to levels in line with similar authorities in the north and midlands, following a period when the numbers of children in care was significantly lower than one would expect. It also reflects a continued rise in the number of children in care nationally.

The number of children subject to Child Protection Plans is 249 (59 more than in June 2015) and 501 children have Child in Need plans. The number of open children's social care cases has risen to 1686, which, while it remains much lower than its peak of 2034 in the winter of 2011/12, is 224 more than in June 2015.

5 children have been adopted since April 2016, and 26 children are placed in adoptive placements.

REGIONAL ADOPTION AGENCY UPDATE

A number of proposals have been explored regarding how the West Pennine Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) should operate.

Department for Education finance for supporting further development of the RAA in 2016/17 is currently under negotiation as the funds offered fall far short of what is needed in order to maintain progress to implementation by 1st April 2017. Therefore, at this point in time a full proposal has been delayed being submitted to the Executive Board.

INSPECTION OF THE YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE

HMI Probation spent three days with the Youth Justice Service between 20th -22nd June as part of a new programme of inspection of youth offending work. The 'Short Quality Screening (SQS) of Youth Offending Work' examined the effectiveness of the service at reducing offending, protecting the public, protecting the child or young person and ensuring that the sentence is served. Good feedback has been received about workers and the full report is due imminently.

INVESTING IN CHILDREN AWARD

The Assessment and Social Work team has been awarded 'Investing in Children' Membership in recognition of good practice and active inclusion and dialogue with children and young people to bring about change. We are one of the very first social work teams in the country to be awarded this.

The report concluded that *"it is clear to see the ways in which children and young people have a voice and get listened to by their social workers. Young people are actively involved in the recruitment and selection of staff, having a say when it comes to their care plans, reviews, contact as well as their thoughts and feelings."*

LIFE STORY MONTH

Children's Services is promoting 'Life Story Month' throughout July and early August to highlight to carers and professional the importance of life story work with children who come into care. It is important for children who are unable to live with their birth family to understand their life story as they grow and develop. Memories, photographs, stories and keepsakes help children to develop positive self identity, no matter how old they were when they came into care.

A series of workshops and drop-ins will share good practice, provide useful resources and ideas and offer guidance about when and how to start this important work.

To complement this, the Adoption Service has launched their own collection of short stories about adoption. Entitled '*Once Upon a Family – A Collection of True Adoption Stories for Those in the Know*', the book contains poetry, short stories and letters written by children who have been adopted and Blackburn with Darwen adopters.

RESTORATIVE SERVICE QUALITY MARK FOR YOT & GRADUATION CEREMONY

The Blackburn with Darwen Youth Justice Service has been awarded the Restorative Standards Quality Mark (RSQM) from the Restorative Justice Council in recognition of high quality practice. The service effectively demonstrated that Blackburn with Darwen processes have had a positive impact upon the victims of crime and the young people who have caused harm. The service was accredited against 6 standards including leadership and strategy, service delivery, working together and training and support.

The Restorative Justice team has also teamed up with Lancashire Constabulary to provide Restorative Justice training to students at Blackburn Central High School who volunteered as facilitators. The training was delivered to 12 students spanning the Year 7 to Year 10 age range and their achievements were recognised at a dedicated graduation ceremony in July.

LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD GOVERNMENT REVIEW

The Department for Education commissioned a review in January 2016 on the remit and effectiveness of Local Safeguarding Children Boards. The review was led by Alan Wood, a former Chair of the Association of Directors of Children's Services.

The Wood Review recommended that the overall functions of LSCBs should cover the child protection agenda rather than the wider safeguarding and wellbeing agenda with local areas given permission to determine which local partnership bodies will cover which part of the safeguarding agenda.

The review also concluded that case reviews should continue, with the most serious reviews commissioned to a separate national body who will undertake cases in the national interest. The review also recommended that the policy and oversight of case reviews of all child deaths be moved from the Department for Education to the Department of Health.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

CLLR JIM SMITH

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR- MARTIN EDEN**

DATE:

YOUR CALL

Following on the success of the community clean up initiatives, the Council has now enlisted over 300 community volunteer litter pickers, who regularly go out in their local area and remove litter.

The Environment team has also liaised with established park and cemetery friends and supporters groups on weed spaying within parks and cemeteries, with some 6 volunteers from groups across the borough, having successfully passed the national certificate to allow them to apply herbicide, under the direction of the Council. The 6 individuals have undertaken a 3 day course to pass their PA1 and PA6 certification.

Further work on developing resource packs for established friends and supporters groups are continuing, to enable the more active groups to be supplied with tools and equipment, so as to enable groups to undertake work, without much pre-planning, as currently happens.

The first quarter of this financial year has seen some 37 Your Call events take place, with 945 volunteers attending, of which 719 were first time attendees at a Your Call clean up event.

ENFORCEMENT AND REGULATION

The Council's Public Protection team has undertaken a number of recent prosecutions, with 2 Food Hygiene prosecutions with fines, costs and victim surcharge totalling £5,695, an illegal slaughter of animals totalling £3,775, a Trading Standards Tobacco prosecution totalling £853 as well as the seizure of illicit tobacco and products, plus 3 enviro-crime prosecutions for waste related offences totalling £3,900.

WASTE TONNAGE

A significant rise in residual waste tonnage in May, saw 3,210 tonnes of residual waste produced, which is a rise of 17% on May 2015. The majority of the waste, 2,461 tonnes went to a waste to energy plant, with 749 tonnes sent to landfill.

Kerbside commingled recycling (grey bin) has also increased for May, which saw 1,090 tonnes recycled, a rise of 10% on May 2015. To combat the rise in residual waste, the Portfolio is looking at options for development of environmental education, not just with leafletting to residents, but also targeted work within schools.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR LEISURE, CULTURE AND YOUNG PEOPLE

**COUNCILLOR DAMIAN TALBOT PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR: MARTIN EDEN
DATE: 21 JULY 2016**

Community Assets

Opening of the new Shadsworth Hub - The Shadsworth Hub build is complete, the official opening was held on Monday 27th June. The £4 million Shadsworth Community Hub and Enterprise Centre provides a community facility above five retail shops on the ground

Young People's Service

The past couple of months has been a particularly productive period within the neighbourhood sessions with Youth Work Curriculum completed by 78 juniors (8-12 yrs) and 198 seniors (13-19). Delivery focused on prevention and early intervention work around substance misuse and relationships (bullying, home life, sexual, CSE). In addition to neighbourhood sessions 21 residentials were also delivered to engage young people around team building activities, substance misuse, relationships, Cleaner and Greener theme and Community Cohesion, which concluded with a borough-wide community cohesion football tournament.

Leisure Inclusion – Young People's Services in partnership with Children's Services will deliver the summer short breaks.

Universal holiday provision has been commissioned to Blackburn Youth Zone. We are supporting BYZ to ensure an effective offer is placed over the busy summer holiday period to meet the needs of local children and young people and their families.

Healthy Lifestyles

A Volunteer Celebration Event was held on Sunday 12th June at Audley Sports and Community Centre, as part of National Volunteers week. Re:fresh's 100+ volunteers contributed 8,190 hours of their time in 2015/16 to promote the benefits of being physically active and supporting individuals and groups to improve their health and wellbeing. The re:refresh programme also supports accredited training for volunteers to increase community capacity and opportunities – award certificates were also presented during the event.

Witton Park

There has been a conscious effort to increase the number of events held at Witton Park in 2016-17, successfully attracting a varied range of new events whilst retaining popular, annual bookings.

Funding has been secured through Tesco's National Charity Partnership to install new walking / running routes with way-markers through the park along with new information lecterns. "A Walk in the Park" family fun day will launch these new countryside developments

The refurbished athletics track continues to attract new bookings. Local schools secondary schools continue to regularly use the outdoor facilities for their PE classes and school sports days have been held most weeks since half term. Several primary schools from within and outside the borough have come to the park to enjoy the outdoor learning activities offered for their summer school trip.

Eid in the Park

At 8.30am on Wednesday 6th July, over 1200 people attended an outdoor prayer event at Witton Park Arena to celebrate Eid Al-Fitr day. Eid in the Park Blackburn Committee organised the event to help unite the communities of Blackburn and the surrounding areas.

The celebrations were an important milestone as thousands of people across the borough have spent the previous four weeks fasting for around 19 hours a day. The Eid celebrations mark the end of Ramadhan. It was especially pleasing that this year there was one Eid on one day for everyone across the Borough to celebrate together.

The event's Charity partner was the Human Appeal and proceeds from the three days were donated to this good cause.

The Eid celebrations in Blackburn continued with events at Witton Park the following weekend on Saturday and Sunday, July 9 and 10, 2016. A family fun festival was organised and people from all communities were invited to take part in a variety of different activities including: Funfair Rides, Donkey Rides, Bouncy Castles, Mini Golf/Crazy Golf, Archery Food Stalls, Clothing Stalls and much more.

Library Services

On 30th June 21016, the Library Service said farewell and a happy retirement to two of its senior managers, Kath Sutton, Service Manager retired after a career in Libraries spanning 36 years. Jean Gabbatt, Principal Librarian retired after a career spanning 37 years, 31 of which were spent working in Blackburn. Kath and Jean were instrumental in managing significant changes in the library service including the introduction of new technology such as the new library management system, RFID self-service machines and WIFI.

Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery

The first four folio editions of the plays of William Shakespeare are on show at Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery until 31 August. This unique exhibition commemorates the 400th anniversary of the death of the playwright. Included is one of 5 first editions that remain in this country, on loan to us from Stonyhurst College. Blackburn's own Edward Hart collected fine examples of the Second, Third and Fourth Folio, which he gifted to the people of Blackburn for display in the museum, of which the 3rd Folio is an extremely rare survivor of the great fire of London. The exhibition is supported by a talk the eminent Shakespeare scholar Professor Sir Brian Vickers on the 8th July at 2 pm thanks to our continuing partnership with the University of London.

ARTS SERVICES

Blackburn Urban Room

Urban Room Blackburn is a month long festival that focuses on urban culture and looks at art and architecture in public spaces. It kicked off with Blackburn Open Walls, a project that saw six female street artists decorate walls around the town centre from Lords St West, The Mall and Youthzone. It was curated by artist Hayley Welsh originally from Blackburn who now lives in Australia and included Blackburn based Alexandra Gallagher

Activity will happen throughout July including on Friday July 15 a tour of Blackburn's Cotton Exchange will be held by Alastair Murdoch, Chair of Re:Source a charity that is aiming to restore the building. He will explain plans for the redevelopment and regeneration of the former Apollo cinema and the transformation of it into a new cultural asset for the town. This will be followed on Tuesday, July 19 by A Modern Blackburn which sees architect Altaf Master from Capita explain the ideas behind the design of Blackburn's new bus station in the context of other contemporary buildings he has designed.

For more information about Urban Room Blackburn visit www.blackburnisopen.co.uk

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD AND PREVENTION SERVICES

CLLR ARSHID MAHMOOD

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR: SAYYED OSMAN
DATE: 21 JULY 2016**

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Multi-agency approach with Police, Fire and Rescue and Ambulance service to engage and deliver schools projects to raise children's awareness around emergencies and emergency planning. The initial pilot was successfully delivered, phase two has recently been rolled out to two primary schools with children fully engaged. A full roll out to all primary schools is planned for September 2016.

During the project the Children took part in workshops which included learning about keeping calm in an emergency, making their own home safety plans, educating their parents and family and learning about the roles of the emergency services and the Local authority in emergency response. They also looked at the school's preparation for emergencies, discussed national and international emergencies such as floods and earthquakes, and had the chance to hold a 'Question Time' event with members officers from of the Council and the emergency services.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

The new CCTV Hub progressing well and on schedule although a very tight timescale. The contract has been awarded and building work has commenced. The new hub will centralise CCTV monitoring for several areas across Lancashire and will be situated in the Northgate Suite (formerly the registrar's space)

SOMME COMMEMORATION

On Sunday 3rd July 2016 Blackburn Cathedral hosted the NW commemoration ceremony followed by a parade, inspection and civic reception. Later in the day the Military Band played to a joyful audience in the Cathedral Quarter. The event was lead and managed under the Directorate with staff volunteering and supporting the event from early hours on Sunday for the full day until the events had concluded. Equally great support as ever from our partners Lancashire Constabulary, the MALL, Lancashire Fire and Rescue, the community who turned out to cheer on the Parade. We would like to record our thanks to all those who have worked behind the scenes, tirelessly over many months to ensure that it was a respectful and dignified way to commemorate the centenary for the Somme.

PHASE 2 - TROUBLED FAMILY PROGRAMME

The overall five year target (2015-2020) to be met through the programme is to work with 1670 families. At mid-June of this year, the programme was working with 546 families, equating to 2303 family members. Wards with the highest volume of open cases are currently:

- Shadsworth with Whitebirk - 44
- Sudell - 38
- Ewood - 29
- Highercroft - 29

- Wensley Fold - 21
- Mill Hill - 20

The programme now over several years is an important preventative programme helping to stem demand on our statutory services.

The Troubled Families programme continues to support the development of staff by offering access to a Level 4 qualification delivered by Blackburn College. Alongside the formal training for key workers on the frontline we are also supporting develop of employees and partners through Strengthening Families programmes which is an evidenced based training programme and a key deliverable for the BwD Parenting Strategy.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES – 21 July 2016

COUNCILLOR ANDY KAY

PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
CHIEF OFFICER: DENISE PARK

Finance

The Finance Team have closed down the 2015/16 accounts and our external Auditors, Grant Thornton are now auditing our statutory accounts. The outturn position was reported to Executive Board earlier this month.

The team have now commenced procurement of a replacement Finance System for the Council. The current system has been in use now for over 15 years and has reached the end of its useful life; a new system will enable the Council to benefit from the advancement in Finance system capabilities and will deliver significant efficiencies in working practices both within Finance and across the wider Council.

Council Tax, Housing Benefits and Business Rates

Following the transfer of the Council Tax, Housing Benefit and Business Rate Teams from Capita in April, the related IT systems transferred from the Capita datacentre to the Northgate Cloud at the end of June. The Revenues and Benefits teams will now begin roll-out of further self-service modules for customers and partners. These will include a Housing Benefit landlord portal, fully integrated on-line forms. electronic access to account and claim details for customers and e-billing.

Welfare Cap

The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) has informed the Council of the initial list of families who will be impacted by the revised Welfare Cap rates. Commencing this month, the DWP will be writing to and interviewing those who will be affected. Once contact has been made with the families, the Council will be instructed to make an appropriate deduction to the Housing Benefit payment. It is expected that this process will commence in August 2016.

Advice for All service

Following a formal tendering process for Advice Services, the new contract was awarded to a partnership comprising of Shelter, the Women's Centre and Blackburn with Darwen Carers Service. The partnership will have an initial contract period of three years with the option to extend for a further two years. The service will continue to be run from Blackburn Library and Darwen Town Hall.

The council is working closely with Shelter in the transition to the new arrangements and council employees are providing support in the interim, dealing with customer enquiries and liaising with voluntary partners.

Customer Services

To improve service delivery and provide for a more flexible workforce, the Contact Centre has been relocated to the front of the Town Hall. It is hoped that the move will allow resources to be deployed to the front desk and the telephones as customer needs require.

IT

The team have continued to progress the implementation of new and upgraded systems to improve service delivery and more efficient ways of working including:

- MOSAIC (the Adults Social Care system)
- The Wide Area Network rollout, to update the links to all corporate and schools sites
- Environment SRM system
- Strategic Partnership - relocation of Property and Highways systems.
- Revenues & Benefits applications following the transfer from Capita
- Public Access solution – Citizen Wi-Fi enabled in Libraries
- Direct Access roll-out.

Legal

During May recruitment took place for the Independent Person for the Standards Committee for the next term of office. To provide resilience two persons have been appointed, Paul Fletcher and Tassadaq Hussain. Given the timing of the finalisation of their appointment it was not possible to report these appointments as normal to the Annual Council Meeting on 19th May 2016 and Council Forum is asked to note these appointments.

HR

HR completed work on the final TUPE transfers from Capita on schedule on 1st July 2016. HR also continues to support managers and employees across the organisation to improve attendance at work and further reduce employee absence levels. Our HR and IT teams have also recently launched an e-learning portal which provides a large number of training and development on-line courses. HR are continuing to provide more services to schools and the projected income for 2016/17 is expected to exceed original targets. The roll out of manager/employee self- service modules linked to the digitisation and efficiency agendas is progressing and all council employees now have access to `on line payslips' saving money on printing and distribution.

Capita Partnership

The new place based partnership with Capita started on the 1st July with a focus on Property, Highways and Transport services to support housing and employment growth in the borough and continue to improve our assets and infrastructure. We also acknowledge the previous 15 year multi-disciplinary public private partnership with Capita which ended on 30th June and was one of the longest lasting and most successful of such partnerships.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS & EDUCATION

COUNCILLOR DAVE HARLING

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR: LINDA CLEGG
DATE: 21st July 2016**

LAUNCH OF THE 'NEW DIRECTIONS' SERVICE

A new in-house information, advice and guidance service for young people in Blackburn with Darwen was launched at the end of June. Following consultation with young people the service has been branded 'New Directions' and is part of the School Effectiveness team. The service will focus on young people who are not engaged in education, employment or training covering the 16-19 age range and up to age 25 if the young person has special educational needs or a disability (SEND).

The New Directions team is in regular contact with schools and post 16 providers and initial activity has included securing suitable post 16 destinations for all year 11 students across the borough. Drop in sessions are underway at the Everybody Centre (Blackburn) and Knott Street Youth Centre (Darwen). Over 1400 young people have been contacted via email, telephone and social media to promote the service and book one to one advice sessions.

HEADTEACHER UPDATES

The following Headteachers will be retiring at the end of the Summer term:

- Fiona Jack, Darwen Vale High School
- Gaynor Stubbs, Wensley Fold CE Primary

At Lammack Primary School, Paula Duckworth has been successfully appointed as Headteacher following the retirement of Tracey Wedgeworth earlier this year.

Headteachers who will be leaving or have left to pursue other opportunities are:

- Stuart Plowes, Avondale Primary school
- Hilary Hinchcliffe, St Silas CS Primary
- Catherine Monaghan, St Paul's RC Primary, Feniscowles

We wish them all well and thank them for their service to the children and young people of the borough. Interim leadership arrangements are in place at all schools where there are vacancies.

MUSIC PERFORMANCES ROUNDUP

Year after year the Music Service has offered an increased number of formal and informal performance opportunities for children and young people across the borough. During 2015/16 over 7,400 people enjoyed 185 concerts with 5 large events, 30 smaller concerts and 150 First Access concerts.

One of the larger events was the annual Mini Sing on 17th and 18th May, when 250 pupils from 19 Infant and Primary schools and Our Lady and St John Catholic College performed at King Georges Hall. Audiences at both performances were thoroughly entertained!

SCHOOL INSPECTIONS

Sacred Heart RC Primary School has maintained its Requires Improvement Ofsted judgement following an inspection in April. The published report makes reference to the strengths of the school including new teaching strategies introduced by the new Headteacher and how these have resulted in some improvements to the progress of pupils. Areas cited for improvement include the need to embed systems to measure, track and evaluate progress and to higher the expectations of leaders and teachers on what pupils can achieve.

Following an inspection in early June, St Edward's Catholic Primary School has improved on its previous inspection to be judged 'Good' in all areas. The inspection report highlights the 'excellent leadership of the headteacher' and remarks that the 'provision for pupils' personal development, welfare and well-being is outstanding.'

LETTERBOX CLUB FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

The Blackburn with Darwen Virtual School is taking part in The Letterbox Club, which aims to provide enjoyable educational support for looked after children aged 5-11. The programme is managed by the reading charity BookTrust, in partnership with the University of Leicester.

The Letterbox Club focuses on improving a child's educational outlook by sending parcels of carefully selected materials for them to own and keep. Parcels are sent directly to the child at their home address and each parcel contains a variety of fiction and non-fiction books, number games and fun educational materials aimed at stimulating reading and educational activity in the home.

The children received their first parcel in May and will receive a monthly parcel thereafter for 6 months. If the child moves placement or returns to their birth family during this time, the parcel will be sent to their new address. Is it pleasing to note that the Virtual School has already received thankyou postcards from some of our children saying how much they enjoyed receiving their first parcel.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION

COUNCILLOR PHIL RILEY

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR:**

BRIAN BAILEY

DATE: 21 July 2016

CATHEDRAL QUARTER

Cathedral Court is now completed with the Clergy and staff at the Cathedral now in residence. The official opening took place on July 17th officiated by the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu. Café Northcote at the Cathedral opened in the first week of June and is trading well with business really strong especially throughout the Flower Festival. The Cathedral Flower Festival and Countryside Comes to Town, which ran between June 23rd and 26th, were each hugely successful with fantastic feedback from residents and visitors and extensive regional and national media coverage. In relation to the office accommodation, terms have been agreed with a business for part of the second floor and legals are progressing. There are some final remediation works underway mainly in the public realm which are expected to be finished by the end of August.

PENNINE REACH

Furthergate works are due to complete in August. A funding bid has been submitted to the Lancashire LEP under the Growth Deal initiative to support development of adjoining employment sites.

FRECKLETON STREET LINK (WAINWRIGHT WAY)

The official opening and naming of Wainwright Way is due to take place on 25th July in the presence of members of Alfred Wainwright's family. Marketing and disposal of adjacent employment sites is underway with keen interest from developers.

DARWEN 3-DAY MARKET

Following the recent call-in which upheld the Executive Board decision to demolish the 3-day market building and redevelop the site, the Council is now progressing next steps. The Markets team has started the process to support 3-day market traders to apply for stalls in the main Market Hall and Annexe, and work will be starting soon on the adaptations needed to create the requisite space for displaced traders.

BLAKEY MOOR TOWNSCAPE PROJECT

Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) have confirmed an award of £1.5 million to be matched by the Council for the delivery of the Blakey Moor Townscape Heritage project over the next 5 years. The project beat off stiff national competition to deliver planned improvement works to the Northgate Conservation area, King George's Hall and properties on Blakey Moor, Northgate and Lord Street West. Grants of up to 80% of cost will be available

for building conservation work. The Blakey Moor terrace is a priority project with plans to restore it to its former glory making it more suitable for restaurant use. Negotiations are underway with property owners and existing businesses to allow works to start as soon as possible. The project will also deliver an environmental enhancement scheme, a heritage skills training programme and a series of events to help raise the profile of the area's rich history and heritage.

COMMUNITY CLOTHING

Community Clothing is a manufacturer's cooperative led by British Designer Patrick Grant. After successfully securing almost £100,000 through an on-line crowd funding campaign the project has now started manufacturing a number of clothing lines – British designed and British made at competitive prices. The Council has agreed a lease on 14 Lord Street West to facilitate the project's retail ambitions with the shop opening later this month. A full time manager has been appointed and is working closely with Bootstrap Enterprises who will be staffing the shop through their retail training programme. 14 Lord Street West is one of the heritage buildings earmarked for refurbishment as part of the Blakey Moor Townscape Heritage Project. This will bring the two upper floors back into use, providing a venue for a new Community Clothing textiles/sewing skills academy.

BLACKBURN MARKETS REDEVELOPMENT SITE

Following a recent workshop with Capita, GL Hearn and Council Officers, work is underway to review progress and future options for use and development of the site. This will include consideration of short term uses for the site as well redevelopment options. Options will be presented to the Executive Board when they are sufficiently developed.

STREET LIGHTING

All LED units have now been successfully installed in accordance with the approved invest to save programme. Early indications are that the Council is already making substantial energy savings but a full year post-installation assessment is required to obtain robust figures. A full evaluation of the Street Lighting Service has been done to establish the level of service required to carry out future maintenance on the new lanterns and columns.

HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE

Network Recovery works are progressing with 20 schemes added to the 2016/17 works due to savings and efficiencies realised within the programme. This year is the final year of the programme and an evaluation is being prepared in line with Government guidelines that the Council self-assesses and scores its highways maintenance performance.



REPORT TO:	COUNCIL FORUM
FROM:	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
ON:	THURSDAY, 21ST JULY 2016

REPORT TITLE: Corporate Plan 2016-2019

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

A report from the Leader of the Council outlining the Corporate Plan 2016-2019.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Council Forum is invited to:

- Adopt the Council's Corporate Plan for 2016-2019
 - Appendix One - Corporate Plan 2016-19 Summary
 - Appendix Two - Corporate Plan 2016-19 Technical Appendix

3. BACKGROUND

In 2012, Policy Council agreed the Corporate Plan for 2013-2015 and Policy Council 2013 reaffirmed the six corporate priorities that drive the Council's business and ensure that improved outcomes are achieved for residents.

In December 2014, Policy Council agreed to continue to deliver the six strategic priorities and portfolio priorities for one further year (2015/16) and in December 2015, Policy Council again re-affirmed the Council's top six corporate priorities and agreed the adoption of four new long term strategic themes that will be distilled into every portfolio to complement the Corporate Priorities.

4. RATIONALE

During this period of change within Local Government, it is important for the Council and for localism that the local authority adopts a Corporate Plan that ensures that the achievement of positive outcomes and opportunities for residents remains at the heart of its day to day business.

This ambitious but achievable Corporate Plan builds on the work of the last three years as the Council continues to put the views and the expectations of residents at the forefront of its thinking.

Building upon the previous Corporate Plan and the Corporate Priorities agreed at

previous Policy Council's. By adopting the existing corporate priorities Council policy will be set for the next three years until 2019. The local authority will be able to provide continuity to the services that it provides whilst also affording the same continuity to the strategic objectives and pledges the portfolios outline for themselves.

It is proposed that the following Corporate Priorities remain:

1. Creating more **jobs** and supporting business growth
2. Improving **housing** quality and building more houses
3. Improving **health and well-being**;
4. Improving outcomes for our **young people**
5. Safeguarding the most **vulnerable people**
6. **Making your money go further**

And four long term strategic themes will be distilled into every portfolio to complement the Corporate Priorities.

The themes are:

- Image and Marketing of the borough
- Fairness / Equality / Cohesion
- Partnership working - residents / business / other key stakeholders
- Digital First

Appendix One provides a summary of the Corporate Plan 2016-19 priorities and portfolio pledges.

Appendix Two provides greater detail of the performance measures and targets in order to achieve the Corporate Plan 2016-19 priorities and portfolio pledges.

Council Forum is invited to adopt these two appendices.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Corporate Plan sets out the corporate priorities and underpinning themes of the Council for 2016-2019, and in order to provide clear strategic direction, such priorities should be reflected across the organisation, throughout departmental business plans, service plans and individuals' performance plans.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The policy context and Corporate Plan will inform Elected Members' decisions during the budget setting process for 2016 and beyond, alongside the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

In agreement with the budget setting process, financial implications of business plans will need to be developed for each individual department which will require approval though the relevant Executive Member(s).

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct legal implications of this report. Any legal matters arising during

the delivery of these priorities, are a matter for consideration through the usual constitutional processes.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Any additional resource requirements that may be required by the services, following the agreement of the recommendations outlined within this report are a matter for consideration by either Executive Board or the relevant Executive Member according to delegated powers.

9. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

A full Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for the Corporate Plan, which has been refreshed in 2016.

Future implications of policy decisions and recommendations will be assessed individually through consultation with relevant Executive Members

10. CONSULTATIONS

The Corporate Plan 2016-19 has been formulated via the input of several groups, taking into consideration the local political landscape, current Government legislation and the current and future needs of the Borough.

When originally outlined in 2012 the local authority undertook a public consultation to draft the corporate priorities. Since this original consultation and through recent discussions with community partners, Your Call volunteers and ward members (via ward solutions meetings and Council committees) it is felt that the priorities found within this Corporate Plan still reflect the needs of residents.

Internally the Corporate Plan and especially the portfolio specific pledges have been devised with the input and co-operation of Executive and Lead Members, Chief Officers and departmental management teams (including Heads of Service) through the collaborative efforts of SPT meetings, PAM meetings and one to one meetings between portfolio holders and directors. Similarly using the Councils Our Ideas platform, Council staff have had their chance to construct the direction of the local authority over the next three years through a series of 'Challenges' set by the Chief Executive, and this Plan considers their recommendations.

Chief Officer/Member

Contact Officer: Denise Park, Deputy Chief Executive
Date: 11th July 2016
Background Papers:

Form Reference Standard Committee Report Template May 2012 1.0

Appendix One



Corporate Plan 2016-2019

A Summary

Version 4.0
July 2016

Foreword

Welcome to the 2016 – 2019 Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council Corporate Plan. This plan sets out our shared vision for the future of the Council and borough whilst also providing the scope of the priorities and pledges for each political portfolio. Together we hope that this plan meets and exceeds the expectations of residents and partners as we continue to go through a period of transformation and change.

Since the formulation of the previous Corporate Plan in 2012, the Local Authority has been hit hard by Government cuts to public sector spending. Although together with partners and local communities we have worked hard to limit and mitigate the effect these funding cuts have had on the services that the Council provide and the residents that we serve. In real terms however, the Council has lost £60m in Government funding since 2010 and it is estimated that over the next four years the local authority will lose a further £48m and it is within this difficult financial context that this Corporate Plan was developed.

The development of this Corporate Plan continues the work achieved over the past three years by reaffirming the Council's commitment to its current key Corporate Priorities whilst also adopting new development themes to ensure that as a borough we continue to develop, prosper and grow. We will support business, we will safeguard the most vulnerable, we will provide positive outcomes for young people, we will continue to improve wellbeing, we will build more housing and we will make our money go further.

By investing in ourselves and promoting inward development through the continuation of vital strategic partnerships such as the Local Strategic Partnership Board and supporting residents through the ever-growing Your Call scheme. We will build on and strengthen the position of Blackburn and Darwen both locally, regionally and nationally, despite the tough economic times.

Whilst inward investment will help the borough buck national trends, the creation of new devolved regions and the formulation of new Combined Authorities across England have given Local Authorities the power and the incentive to shape their own destiny and as such We will ensure that Blackburn with Darwen will be at the forefront of shaping a new Lancashire.

This Corporate Plan ensures we put fairness and equal opportunity at the heart of our borough and we are confident that we can work together over the next three years to achieve all we set out to do. By doing so we will be make the borough not only a fairer but a better place to live, work and visit.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Khan'.

Councillor Mohammed Khan O.B.E
Leader of the Council
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

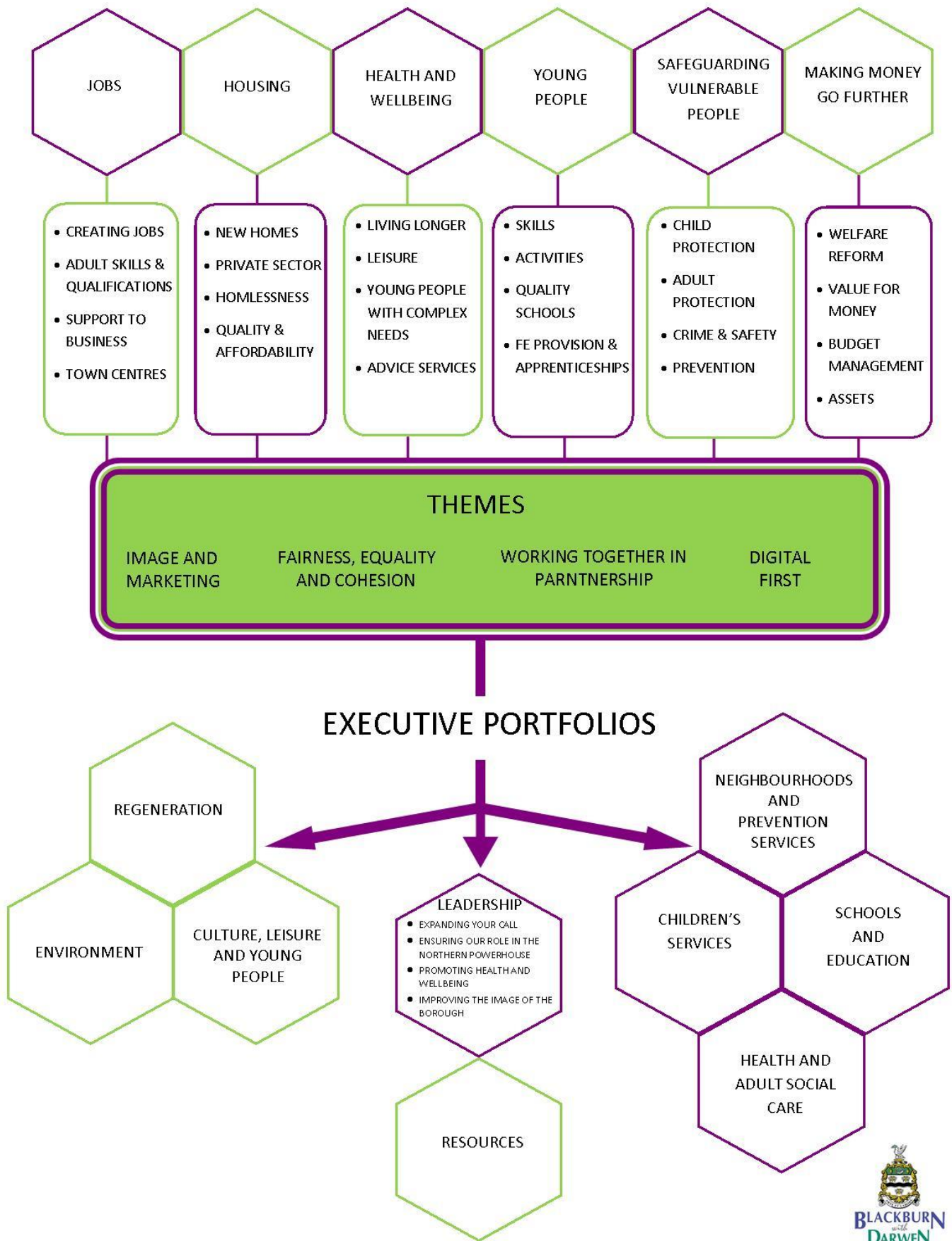


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Harry'.

Harry Catherall
Chief Executive
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

THE CORPORATE PLAN 2016 – 2019

PUTTING OUR PRIORITIES INTO EVERYTHING WE DO



Blackburn with Darwen Current Context: Arte Et Labore

The priorities, pledges and development themes set out in this Corporate Plan are intended to show the ambitions the Council has for the continued development of this East Lancashire borough even in an unprecedented and challenging financial context. In 2012 the Council pledged to seize opportunities to help it face its difficult challenges. Now the Council aims to build upon the achievements and foundations of the previous three years by expanding and growing its commitment to seizing all opportunities within and without of the borough. This plan will ensure that the vital services that are relied upon by our residents every day continue to improve and will continue to be supported. This section outlines the foundations that we will build on and the realities facing the area in 2016.

Our Borough in 2016

Geographical and Political context

Blackburn with Darwen is a semi – rural East Lancashire Unitary Authority, with compact urban areas predominately but not exclusively located within the BB1 postcode and Darwen Town centre. The area is surrounded by countryside and features a number of small rural villages and hamlets that support basic services. Geographically the borough borders Bury and Bolton in the South, Chorley in the West, Hyndburn and Rossendale in the East and the Ribble Valley in the North. Blackburn is the main hub for the borough with local administration and amenities centred in the town. The Local Authority area sits over two Parliamentary Constituencies, Rossendale and Darwen in the South and Blackburn in the North; in the 2015 General Election they were returned Conservative and Labour respectively. The Borough Council is Labour controlled with a 24 seat majority over the Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Independent political groups combined. The area is also home to six Parish Councils including the currently Labour controlled Darwen Town Council.

Population, Housing and Affluence

The population of the borough is 140,443 and is split between the two towns by a ratio of roughly 4:1 (Blackburn: Darwen) however this does not take into consideration the rural population that currently sits at almost 6,500 residents. The borough has a relatively young age profile with around a quarter of the Borough under the age of 24. Conversely however the borough has a smaller older population (65+) compared to national figures. It has been suggested that the borough has proportionally the youngest age profile than any other area within the EU.

Most domestic properties within the borough are valued and sold below the national average and the majority sit in Council Tax band A. Terraces are predominately the typical housing style and are mainly found within the urban centres of Blackburn and Darwen. Towards the urban / rural boundaries of the borough, house prices and tax bands typically increase as does the typical style of house with modest detached and semi – detached properties becoming the norm. Further into the rural and more affluent areas of both Blackburn and Darwen larger detached and bespoke housing dominate the market and subsequently property prices reflect this. It is thought that those that live within these properties are amongst the most educated and most economically affluent with the Local Authority area.

Business, Jobs and the Northern Powerhouse

The Borough has been an entrepreneurial hub since it led the Industrial Revolution in the 18th and 19th Centuries and the borough continues to be the home of national and world leading businesses. Contributing almost 10% to the total number of businesses within Lancashire the borough hosts over 5,000 enterprises across a variety of sectors. Renowned for its industrial and manufacturing

heritage the borough still sees this sector as one of its largest employers contributing to the 60,000 jobs the local economy supports. Along with manufacturing the public sector, health workers and retail top the borough's top four employers.

As one of the original Northern powerhouses, driving progress and initiating national change has been part of the spirit of the borough since the 1700s. With moves to create a new Northern Powerhouse through the development of devolution deals to Manchester and Merseyside and the continuing development of a Combined Authority for Lancashire the borough is well placed, both ideologically and geographically to develop and benefit from the Treasury's radical regional governance intentions.

Health, Safeguarding and Social Care

Blackburn with Darwen currently faces a number of challenges in terms of public health and wellbeing, the biggest of these is the ageing nature of the borough's population and the pressure this creates on service needs. Commitment to a new joint health and wellbeing strategy in 2015 means the Local Authority is in a position to expand and improve how it integrates and commissions its health and wellbeing functions over the next three years. Through implementing and continuing enhanced partnership work with other public bodies, including the NHS and the Local Clinical Commissioning Group, the borough will adopt new thematic approaches to ensure that residents start well, live well and age well.

Finance and Local Government funding

Following the election of a Conservative Government in May 2015, the Government's main economic priority is to return a national budget surplus by 2020 through increased austerity and further cuts to public spending. As such the financial context facing the Local Authority over this Corporate Plan and beyond is the toughest the area has seen.

Following the announcement of the Local Government finance settlement and despite the powers afforded to local authorities, including the levying a new social care precept and the 1.99% increase in Council Tax, the Council's financial position will be significantly worse than it was at the start of the previous Corporate Plan. In reality this equates to the Local Authority facing a £48m shortfall in its budget over the next four years and a budget reduction of almost £27m in the 2016/17 financial year alone.

These budget challenges and circumstances pose difficult questions over the future role of the Local Authority, including the viability of some services, however plans are already in place to make sure the Local Authority meets this challenge head on and protect what matters most to residents.

Executive Portfolio Priorities and Pledges



Councillor Mohammed Khan O.B.E
Leader of Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

Priority	Pledge – to be achieved by 2019
Your Call - Improvements to make Blackburn with Darwen cleaner and greener - Improvements to health and wellbeing - Improving community togetherness and belonging/neighbourliness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To expand the scope and delivery of Your Call by ensuring all those with ideas are supported. - To have a co-ordinated voluntary offer that works with all sectors to enhance our ability to make volunteering easier. Whilst enabling the council and partners to direct volunteer support where it is most needed. - To facilitate and build resilient communities who are more capable of doing things for themselves.
Ensuring BwD plays a key role in Lancashire governance and expanding our scope within the Northern powerhouse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To ensure that Blackburn with Darwen is in a strong position to benefit from any positive changes to Lancashire governance arrangements and potential freedoms and flexibilities offered to Lancashire by the Government.
Support community cohesion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We will ensure that Blackburn with Darwen fosters safe and cohesive communities, as well as equal opportunities and fairness for all.
Improving the image of BwD.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We will promote the positive offer of the Borough.
Improving Health and Wellbeing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We will achieve our ambitions in the Joint Health and Well-being Strategy.



Councillor Andy Kay
Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Resources

Priority	Pledge – to be achieved by 2019
Deliver a balanced budget year on year with the resources available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To maximise the available resources and minimise the impact of funding reductions on the citizens of the Borough.
Transforming our systems to offer digital solutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To enhance the experience of citizens of the Borough by ensuring all services where appropriate are able to be accessed digitally. - To deliver services with annual improvement in customer satisfaction.
Developing the organisation and its people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To increase productivity – reduce sickness absence. - Workforce is engaged / positive and supported.
Customer Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To have services with annual improvement in customer satisfaction.



Councillor Phil Riley
Senior Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Regeneration

Priority	Pledge – to be achieved by 2019
Delivering the capital projects – securing the outcomes from capital investment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cathedral quarter - Pennine Reach - Freckleton Street. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To commit to have 27 priority sites completed. - To develop 75,000 new sqm of commercial floor space. - To improve the connectivity of transport networks. - We will maintain and improve our highways to support economic growth and ensure good connectivity around the borough.
Accelerating the Growth Agenda.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To deliver the growth plan priorities: Industry and Gateways Town centre Housing.
Local jobs for local people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To increase the employment rate. - To increase apprenticeship take-up. - To improve skills through business and education working together – with the Hive as a lead delivery vehicle.
Improving the appearance of the borough and maintaining service standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We will maintain and improve our highways to support economic growth and ensure good connectivity around the borough.



Councillor Jim Smith
Executive Member for Environment

Priority	Pledge – to be achieved by 2019
Improving the appearance of the borough and maintaining service standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We will continue to support Your Call events and maximise volunteering to improve the quality of the environment.
Reducing fly tipping, landfill waste and maximising recycling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We will ensure that waste is diverted from landfill
Effective licensing and enforcement activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We will continue to work with communities using education and enforcement to reduce fly-tipping and reported enviro-crime - We will use available resources and advocacy for legislation and policy changes to regulate and enforce as an aid to make the borough safer and cleaner place and contribute towards improving health and wellbeing.



Councillor Damian Talbot
Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Young People

Priority	Pledge – to be achieved by 2019
Increasing the participation and engagement of young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We will engage with young people and increase participation in positive activities through direct delivery or by working with partners.
Providing opportunities for people to be active and make healthy lifestyle choices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We will increase participation in health and fitness activities as a means of improving the health and wellbeing of residents.
Stimulating cultural involvement into social and economic regeneration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We will attract a varied programme at King Georges Hall and Darwen Library Theatre to encourage audience attendances at shows and events. - Support creative communities to develop and deliver art projects and events - To provide a range of cultural and developmental activities & events across library and heritage services



Councillor Arshid Mahmood
Executive Member for Neighbourhoods and Prevention Services

Priority	Pledge – to be achieved by 2019
Improving the quality of housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To have reduced the number of bed spaces in Houses In Multiple Occupation and improve property and management standards. - To have implemented selective licensing for private rented housing, have improved living conditions, environment and quality of life thereby directly impacting on improved health.
Demand management and prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To have a locality and neighbourhood offer that delivers a multi-department and multi-agency approach through ‘one Team’. Ensuring a culture of no wrong door and promoting early intervention. - A targeted, prevention and wider neighbourhood offer which supports, enables and facilitates communities to be stronger, more resilient and sustainable. - To have an asset based approach where communities regularly volunteer and are capable of doing more for themselves.
Community Safety / Lifelong Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To reduce crime - To ensure our residents gain the skills and qualifications they need and to support them into employment.



Councillor Mustafa Desai
Executive Member for Health and Adult Social Care

Health - Overarching Priority	
To fulfil the council's statutory and regulatory duties to improve and protect the health and wellbeing of the population through innovation and engagement	
Priority	Pledge – to be achieved by 2019
Help residents to live longer and healthier lives.	- Life expectancy for both males and females will increase.
Effectively manage public sector demand and put more resources into preventative services.	- We will manage the increasing demand on public sector services and improve outcomes by creating a year on year shift in investment from care services into prevention.
Improve life chances for residents by offering improved and joined up health and wellbeing services.	- We will work with partners to ensure the effectiveness and value of local health improvement services.
Adult Social Care - Overarching Priority	
Effectively manage rising social care demand and reinvest resources into preventative services	
Priority	Pledge – to be achieved by 2019
Safeguarding vulnerable adults and developing the Service User voice.	- To make sure that the wishes and needs of people we work with drive our arrangements for keeping vulnerable adults safe.
Managing demand and budget pressures through prevention, early intervention and self-help.	- We will deliver a range of early intervention and self-help solutions to help adults live independently, with a good quality of life.
Integration and partnership working with key partners across the public and voluntary sectors.	- We will integrate health and care services both locally and across Pennine Lancashire as appropriate.



Councillor Dave Harling
Executive Member for Schools and Education

Priority	Pledge – to be achieved by 2019
Ensure that children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (aged 0-25) have opportunities and support which inspire and enable them to achieve their best.	- More children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities making good progress in school. - Drive and show leadership in ensuring that partners support improvements with those with complex needs i.e. in health and care.
Continue to work with schools and develop local partnerships to improve learning, training and employment outcomes for children and young people.	- More learners attending schools judged as good or outstanding.
Continue to narrow the gap in academic attainment for children from our more vulnerable groups by removing barriers to success.	- More children from vulnerable groups making good progress in schools and colleges.



Councillor Maureen Bateson M.B.E
Executive Member for Children Services

Overarching Priority	
Providing the best services possible to fulfil the council’s statutory and regulatory duties towards the borough’s children, young people and their families.	
Priority	Pledge – to be achieved by 2019
Work effectively with partners to safeguard children and young people including those vulnerable to exploitation, radicalisation or offending.	Ensuring that children and young people in need of support and protection continue to receive it from the right agencies at the right time for as long as they need it.
Intervene early at the right time to avoid costly intervention wherever possible, including supporting those children with additional needs.	Increasing the number of families receiving help through our Child & Family (CAF) Assessment process and Early Help offer to avoid step up into children’s social care.
For those children who come into care, work quickly to ensure that they achieve permanence without unnecessary delay and their care and learning needs are prioritised.	Taking the right decisions and reducing the time it takes for children in care to be matched with the right family - providing the best possible outcomes and opportunities for our most vulnerable children and young people.

APPENDIX TWO



Corporate Plan 2016-2019

Technical Appendix

Version 1.1
July 2016



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The Council's priority objectives for residents are:

NO	OBJECTIVE	SUMMARY
1.	Creating more jobs and supporting business growth	JOBS
2.	Improving housing quality and building more houses	HOUSING
3.	Improving health and well-being	HEALTH
4.	Improving outcomes for our young people – education and skills	YOUNG PEOPLE
5.	Safeguarding the most vulnerable people	SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE PEOPLE
6.	Making your money go further - supporting households in difficult financial times through efficient and effective use of council tax	MAKING YOUR MONEY GO FURTHER

Four long term strategic themes have been agreed to complement the Corporate Priorities.

The themes are:

- Image and Marketing of the borough
- Fairness / Equality / Cohesion
- Partnership working - residents / business / other key stakeholders
- Digital First

Corporate Plan Technical Appendix 2016-2019

Leaders Councillor Mohammed Khan	Strategic objective	Pledge to be achieved by 2019	Performance measures	Director & HoS lead	Good Performance is	Suggested 16/17 target	Suggested 17/18 target	Suggested 18/19 target
1. Your Call <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements to make Blackburn with Darwen cleaner and greener Improvements to health and wellbeing Improving community togetherness and belonging/neighbourliness 	WORKING TOGETHER IN PARTNERSHIP	To expand the scope and delivery of Your Call by ensuring all those with ideas are supported.	Delivery of work programme	Sayyed Osman	On-going delivery	Update on progress	Update on progress	Update on progress
		To have a co-ordinated voluntary offer that works with all sectors to enhance our ability to make volunteering easier. Whilst enabling the council and partners to direct volunteer support where it is most needed.	Delivery of work programme	Sayyed Osman	On-going delivery	Update on progress	Update on progress	Update on progress
		To facilitate and build resilient communities who are more capable of doing things for themselves.	Delivery of work programme	Sayyed Osman	On-going delivery	Update on progress	Update on progress	Update on progress
2. Ensuring BwD plays a key role in Lancashire governance and expanding our scope within the Northern powerhouse.	WORKING TOGETHER IN PARTNERSHIP	To ensure that Blackburn with Darwen is in a strong position to benefit from any positive changes to Lancashire governance arrangements and potential freedoms and flexibilities offered to Lancashire by the Government.	Delivery of work programme	Harry Catherall / Alison Schmid	On-going delivery	Update on progress	Update on progress	Update on progress

3. Support community cohesion.	FAIRNESS, EQUALITY AND COHESION	We will ensure that Blackburn with Darwen fosters safe and cohesive communities, as well as equal opportunities and fairness for all.	Civic participation and community events (Community Togetherness)	Sayyed Osman / Heather Taylor	Maintain annual activity	To be developed	To be developed	To be developed
			% of people who meet and talk to people from different ethnic groups % of people who agree that the borough is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together (CSP Perception Survey)	Sayyed Osman / Imran Akuji Sayyed Osman / Imran Akuji	Higher Higher	Maintain the ranking of the most popular places: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local shops N'hoods work 	Maintain the ranking of the most popular places.	Maintain the ranking of the most popular places.
4. Improving the image of BwD	IMAGE AND MARKETING	We will promote the positive offer of the borough.	Delivery of work programme (LSP Board and Place Board)	Brian Bailey	On-going delivery	Update on progress	Update on progress	Update on progress

5. Improving Health and Wellbeing	HEALTH AND WELLBEING	We will achieve our ambitions in the Joint Health and Well-being Strategy.	Delivery of work programme (HWB and HWB strategy)	Dominic Harrison/ Gifford Kerr/ Helen Lowey	On-going delivery	Update on progress	Update on progress	Update on progress
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Portfolio: Resources Councillor Andy Kay	Strategic objective	Pledge to be achieved by 2019	Performance measures	Director & HoS lead	Good Performance is	Suggested 16/17 target	Suggested 17/18 target	Suggested 18/19 target
1. Deliver a balanced budget year on year with the resources available.	MAKING MONEY GO FURTHER	To maximise the available resources and minimise the impact of funding reductions on the citizens of the Borough.	% of the budget saving programme achieved Achieve a breakeven or underspend against overall cash limit	Louise Mattinson / Simon Ross	Higher Higher	98% Overall 1% tolerance	98% Overall 1% tolerance	98% Overall 1% tolerance
2. Transforming our systems to offer digital solutions.	DIGITAL FIRST	To enhance the experience of citizens of the Borough by ensuring all services where appropriate are able to be accessed digitally.	No. of service requests/forms that can be completed by the customer in one action on the website Improved customer access to online information and self-service options	Louise Mattinson / Andy Ormerod	Higher Higher	No of forms to be determined following audit of website Update on a quarterly basis	Increase on previous year since 2015/16 baseline Update on a quarterly basis	Increase on previous year since 2015/16 baseline Update on a quarterly basis

		To deliver services with annual improvement in customer satisfaction.	Answer telephone calls within 60 seconds Greet our visitors within 5 minutes Respond to emails within 1 working day.	Louise Mattinson/ Andy Ormerod	Higher	Answer 80% of our calls within 60 seconds Greet 100% of our visitors within 5 minutes Respond to 95% of our emails within 1 working day.	Answer 80% of our calls within 60 seconds Greet 100% of our visitors within 5 minutes Respond to 95% of our emails within 1 working day.	Answer 80% of our calls within 60 seconds Greet 100% of our visitors within 5 minutes Respond to 95% of our emails within 1 working day.
3. Developing the organisation and its people.	MAKING MONEY GO FURTHER	To increase productivity – reduce sickness absence.	Reduction in employee absence through sickness	David Fairclough / Lorraine Nicholls	Lower	8 days	8 days	8 days
		Workforce is engaged / positive and supported.	Information relating to RIDDORS	David Fairclough/ Lorraine Nicholls	Lower	RIDDORS: quarterly update	RIDDORS: quarterly update	RIDDORS: quarterly update
			% of actions identified in employee survey action plan completed	David Fairclough / Stefanie Baron	Higher	100% of actions completed by 31 st March 2017	100% of actions completed by 31 st March 2018	100% of actions completed by 31 st March 2019
MyView self-service utilisation: Digitisation of HR	David Fairclough/ Mandy Singh / Darren Aggett	Higher	95% of all pay documents access via MyView	97% of all pay documents access via MyView	99% of all pay documents access via MyView			
					Higher	100% of new starters to have electronic files	95% of employees to have electronic files	100% of employees to have electronic files

					Higher	98% expense claims submitted via MyView	99% expense claims submitted via MyView	100% expense claims submitted via MyView
					Higher	100% recruitment applications online	100% recruitment applications online	100% recruitment applications online
					Higher	80% sickness absence recorded via MyView	95% sickness absence recorded via MyView	100% sickness absence recorded via MyView
					Higher	80% of paper forms accessible via MyView	90% of paper forms accessible via MyView	95% of paper forms accessible via MyView
					Higher	Implementation of Netcall across HR Service resulting in 50% reduction in calls and e-mails to HR and self-service solution achieved.	70% reduction in calls and e-mails to HR	80% reduction in calls and e-mails to HR

Regeneration Councillor Phil Riley	Strategic objective	Pledge to be achieved by 2019	Performance measures	Director & HoS lead	Good Performance is	Suggested 16/17 target	Suggested 17/18 target	Suggested 18/19 target
1. Delivering the capital projects – securing the outcomes from capital investment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cathedral quarter • Pennine Reach • Freckleton Street. 	JOBS	To commit to have 24 priority sites completed.	Number of priority growth sites completed or underway	Tom Flanagan	Higher	10	24	24
		To develop 75,000 new sq.m of commercial floor space.	Sq. m of commercial floorspace developed or underway	Tom Flanagan	Higher	13,315	75,000 (cumulative)	75,000 (cumulative)
		To improve the connectivity of transport networks.	Completion of transport capital projects	David Proctor	Delivery on time and to budget	Pennine Reach, Weavers Wheel Ph1, LTP	East Darwen Distributor, Blackamoor Link Rd, LTP	Furthergate Link LTP
Accelerating the Growth Agenda.	JOBS	To deliver the growth plan priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry and Gateways • Town centre • Housing. 	Delivery of growth plan priorities	Tom Flanagan	Higher	656 new jobs 300 new homes 60 affordable £580k MTFS benefit	(cumulative) 2,324 new jobs 855 new homes 171 affordable £2.1m MTFS benefits	(cumulative) 3,762 new jobs 1,505 new homes 301 affordable £4.7m MTFS benefits
Local jobs for local people.	JOBS	To increase the employment rate.	Economic activity rate (% of working age people in employment and/or seeking employment)	Brian Bailey	Higher	71%	72.2%	73.5%

	YOUNG PEOPLE	To increase apprenticeship take-up.	Under 19 apprenticeship starts	Brian Bailey	Higher	500	550	600
	JOB	To improve skills through business and education working together – with the Hive as a lead delivery vehicle.	% of residents with level 4 or above qualifications	Brian Bailey	Higher	24.8%	25.8%	26.8%
Improving the appearance of the borough and maintaining service standards.	IMAGE AND MARKETING	We will maintain and improve our highways to support economic growth and ensure good connectivity around the borough.	Area of highway addressed through Network Recovery Programme	Simon Butt / Matthew Joyce	Higher	40,000m ²	40,000m ² (Cumulative 80,000m ²)	40,000m ² (Cumulative 120,000m ²)

Environment Councillor Jim Smith	Strategic objective	Pledge to be achieved by 2019	Performance measures	Director & HoS lead	Good Performance is	Suggested 16/17 target	Suggested 17/18 target	Suggested 18/19 target
1. Improving the appearance of the borough and maintaining service standards.	WORKING TOGETHER IN PARTNERSHIP	We will continue to support Your Call events and maximise volunteering to improve the quality of the environment	Number of Your Call clean up events held.	Tony Watson	Higher	10 events per month April to September, 4 per month October to March, culminating in 3,000 volunteers	10 events per month April to September, 4 per month October to March, culminating in 3,000 volunteers	10 events per month April to September, 4 per month October to March, culminating in 3,000 volunteers
2. Reducing fly tipping, landfill waste and maximising recycling.	MONEY & WORKING TOGETHER IN PARTNERSHIP	We will ensure that waste is diverted from landfill	Reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.	Tony Watson	Lower	7,800 tonnes	7,700 tonnes	7,700 tonnes
3. Effective licensing and enforcement activities.	SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE PEOPLE & MONEY	We will continue to work with communities using education and enforcement to reduce fly-tipping and reported enviro-crime	Ensure that the ratio of actions taken to the number of fly-tipping incidents recorded does not drop below 2:1	Tony Watson	Higher	Ratio of actions to incidents not to drop below 2:1	Ratio of actions to incidents not to drop below 2:1	Ratio of actions to incidents not to drop below 2:1

		We will use available resources and advocacy for legislation and policy changes to regulate and enforce as an aid to make the borough safer and cleaner place and contribute towards improving health and wellbeing.	Quantity of illicit tobacco seized.	Tony Watson / Gary Johnston	Higher	≥ 6000 cigarettes and / or 4.6kg tobacco	≥ 6000 cigarettes and / or 4.6kg tobacco	≥ 6000 cigarettes and / or 4.6kg tobacco
			% of alcohol retailers compliant with licensing conditions.	Tony Watson / Gary Johnston	Higher	≥95%	≥95%	≥95%
			% of food businesses achieving 3 Star and above rating on the National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme.	Tony Watson / Denise Andrews	Higher	≥90%	≥90%	≥90%
			We will continue to commit resources to shisha enforcement: Number of formal interventions for smoking in enclosed premises (related to shisha).	Tony Watson / Gary Johnston	Higher	≥4	≥4	≥4
			Permitted air polluting processes (for which the council is the regulatory authority) which are compliant with permit requirements.	Tony Watson / Gary Johnston	Higher	≥90%	≥90%	≥90%

Leisure, Culture and Young People Councillor Damian Talbot	Strategic objective	Pledge to be achieved by 2019	Performance measures	Director & HoS lead	Good Performance is	Suggested 16/17 target	Suggested 17/18 target	Suggested 18/19 target
1. Increasing the participation and engagement of young people.	HEALTH & WELLBEING & YOUNG PEOPLE	We will engage with young people and increase participation in positive activities through direct delivery or by working with partners.	Number of junior visits generated through CLS&YP services	Martin Eden / Imran Akuji/ Claire Ramwell	Higher	394,905 junior visits	387,905 junior visits	387,905 junior visits
			Number of attendances to youth provision	Sayyed Osman / Imran Akuji	Higher	30,000 attendances	30,000 attendances	30,000 attendances
			Number of cases managed by the Targeted Youth Support Team	Sayyed Osman / Imran Akuji	Higher	80 cases managed	80 cases managed	80 cases managed
2. Providing opportunities for people to be active and make healthy lifestyle choices.	HEALTH & WELLBEING	We will increase participation in health and fitness activities as a means of improving the health and wellbeing of residents.	Number of volunteers hours supporting CLS&YP service delivery (whole portfolio contribution)	Martin Eden	Higher	22,590 volunteer hours	22,933 volunteer hours	23,276 volunteer hours
			Number of Leisure Attendances (including pitches)	Claire Ramwell	Higher	1,157,553 attendances	1,055,754 attendances	1,055,754 attendances
			Number of contacts and referrals to health and wellbeing hub	Claire Ramwell	Higher	4,866 contacts & referrals	4,866 contacts & referrals	4,866 contacts & referrals

3. Stimulating cultural involvement into social and economic regeneration.	MAKING MONEY GO FURTHER & IMAGE AND MARKETING	We will attract a varied programme at King Georges Hall (KGH) and Darwen Library Theatre (DLT) to encourage audience attendances at shows and events.	Number of attendances at KGH and DLT	Claire Ramwell	Higher	217,221 attendances	205,821 attendances	205,821 attendances
		Support creative communities to develop and deliver art projects and events	Number of art projects supported	Kath Sutton	Higher	100 art projects supported	100 art projects supported	100 art projects supported
		To provide a range of cultural and developmental activities & events across library and heritage services	Number of LIS cultural and self-directed learning events and activities Number of cultural events and activities across heritage services	Kath Sutton	Higher Higher	680 events & activities 24 events & activities	720 events & activities 24 events & activities	680 events & activities 24 events & activities

Portfolio: Neighbourhood's & Prevention Services Councillor Arshid Mahmood	Strategic objective	Pledge to be achieved by 2019	Performance measures	Director & HoS lead	Good Performance is	Suggested 16/17 target	Suggested 17/18 target	Suggested 18/19 target
1. Improving the quality of housing.	HOUSING	To have reduced the number of bed spaces in Houses In Multiple Occupation and improve property and management standards.	Reduction in number of privately run HMO bed spaces	Sayed Osman / Peter Cooke	Lower	35	To follow	To follow
			HMOs subject to enforcement	Sayed Osman / Peter Cooke		26	To follow	To follow
		To have implemented selective licensing for private rented housing, have improved living conditions, environment and quality of life thereby directly impacting on improved health.	Properties licensed and inspected in Selective Licensing areas	Peter Cooke / DASH / Stuart Pye / Sally MacAlister / Subhan Ali	Higher	250 licenses 114 inspections	To follow	To follow
	Increasing the number of private sector homes that have hazards (category 1 & 2) removed		830	To follow		To follow		
2. Demand management and prevention.	SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE PEOPLE & FAIRNESS, EQUALITY & COHESION	To have a locality and neighbourhood offer that delivers a multi-department and multi-agency approach through 'one Team'. Ensuring a culture of no wrong door and promoting early intervention.	Households prevented from becoming homeless	Peter Cooke / Steve Richards	Higher	390	To follow	To follow

		A targeted, prevention and wider neighbourhood offer which supports, enables and facilitates communities to be stronger, more resilient and sustainable.	Number of people engaged in capacity building activities	Sayyed Osman / Heather Taylor	Higher	3,600	3,600	3,600
		To have an asset based approach where communities regularly volunteer and are capable of doing more for themselves.	Number of Volunteers	Sayyed Osman / Heather Taylor	Higher	2,500	2,500	2,500
3. Community Safety / Lifelong Learning	SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE PEOPLE	To reduce Crime	Total crime figures	Sayyed Osman / Imran Akuji / Mark Aspin	Lower	Reduce total crime: within +/-5% of the 2015/16 baseline 10,318	Reduce total crime: within +/-5% of the 2015/16 baseline 10,318	Reduce total crime: within +/-5% of the 2015/16 baseline 10,318
		To ensure our residents gain the skills and qualifications they need and to support them into employment.	Number of people on skills programmes	Sayyed Osman / Heather Taylor	Higher	2,679	2,679	2,679
	Number of people achieving a qualification		Higher		700	700	700	
	Number of people supported through National Careers Service Contract into higher level skills or employment		Higher		1,200	1,200	1,200	

Adult Social Care Councillor Mustafa Desai	Strategic objective	Pledge to be achieved by 2019	Performance measures	Director & HoS lead	Good Performance is	Suggested 16/17 target	Suggested 17/18 target	Suggested 18/19 target
Overarching Priority: To fulfil the council's statutory and regulatory duties to improve and protect the health and wellbeing of the population through innovation and engagement								
1. Safeguarding vulnerable adults and developing the Service User voice.	SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE PEOPLE	To make sure that the wishes and needs of people we work with drive our arrangements for keeping vulnerable adults safe.	A new measure re adult safeguarding will be selected for the 2016-2019 Corporate Plan, drawn from the new adult safeguarding measures being put in place nationally in the light of Care Act developments, as part of the Safeguarding Adults Collection (SAC).	Steve Tingle / Paul Lee	Higher	Due to set Oct 2016	Due to set Oct 2016	Due to set Oct 2016
			User experience and user voice: to achieve 'silver status' in Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) by March 2018.	Steve Tingle / Paul Lee	Higher	Supported decision making and freedom from undue influence	Motivational interviewing and cycles of change.	Building resilience, confidence, assertiveness, self-esteem and respect.
2. Managing demand and budget pressures through prevention, early intervention and self-help.	HEALTH & WELLBEING & MAKING MONEY GO FURTHER	We will deliver a range of early intervention and self-help solutions to help adults live independently, with a good quality of life.	Admissions to residential and nursing care (Ascof 2a2), as monitored against national benchmarks	Steve Tingle / Paul Lee	Higher	Due to set Sept 2016	Due to set Sept 2016	Due to set Sept 2016
			Demand Management Tracker: % of total contacts signposted to alternative sources of support.	Steve Tingle / Paul Lee	Higher	Range: 70% to 80%	Range: 70% to 80%	Range: 70% to 80%
3. Integration and partnership working with key	WORKING TOGETHER IN PARTNERSHIP	We will integrate health and	Delayed transfers of care (DTOC) from hospital that are	Steve Tingle / Paul Lee	Higher	Range: 0.5 to 2.0 DTOC per 100,000 pop	Range: 0.5 to 2.0 DTOC per 100,000 pop	Range: 0.5 to 2.0 DTOC per 100,000 pop

partners across the public and voluntary sectors.	& SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE PEOPLE	care services both locally and across Pennine Lancashire as appropriate.	attributable to adult social care, per 100,000 population. (Ascof 2C2)	Paul Lee				
			Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCF) Consortium scorecard: 'Number of volunteers actively engaged in the community, by locality'	Steve Tingle / Peter Soothill	Higher	Due to set Oct 2016	Due to set Oct 2016	Due to set Oct 2016

Portfolio: Health Councillor Mustafa Desai	Strategic objective	Pledge to be achieved by 2019	Performance measures	Director & HoS lead	Good Performance is	Suggested 16/17 target	Suggested 17/18 target	Suggested 18/19 target
Overarching Priority: Providing the best services possible to fulfil the council's statutory and regulatory duties towards the borough's children, young people and their families.								
1. Help residents to live longer and healthier lives.	HEALTH & WELLBEING	Life expectancy for both males and females will increase.	Reduce differences in life expectancy between BwD and the national average year on year.	Gifford Kerr	Lower	5% reduction in local life expectancy gap on the 2008-10 baseline	6% reduction in local life expectancy gap on the 2008-10 baseline	7% reduction in local life expectancy gap on the 2008-10 baseline
			Increase BwD citizen life expectancy year on year.	Gifford Kerr	Higher	0.5 year increase in average local life expectancy on 2008-10 baseline	0.6 year increase in average local life expectancy on 2008-10 baseline	0.7 year increase in average local life expectancy on 2008-10 baseline
2. Improve life chances for residents by offering improved and joined up health and wellbeing services.	HEALTH & WELLBEING & FAIRNESS EQUALITY AND COHESION	We will work with partners to ensure the effectiveness and value of local health improvement services	Stop smoking – a) number of 4 week quitters- b) Quit rate (Successful quitters as proportion of all who set a quit date)	Gifford Kerr/ Helen Lowey	Higher	a) Maintain 2014/15 number of 4 week quitters (1,018), in the face of increasing use of eCigarettes as an alternative to Stop Smoking services b) Increase Quit rate (Successful quitters as proportion of all who set a quit date) to 45%	TBC end of Q4 2016/17	TBC end of Q4 2017/18
			Proportion of all in treatment, who successfully completed treatment	Gifford Kerr/ Helen Lowey	Higher	All adults - 19%	TBC end of Q4 2016/17	TBC end of Q4 2017/18

			and did not re-present within 6 months.					
3. Effectively manage public sector demand and put more resources into preventative services.	HEALTH & WELLBEING & MAKING MONEY GO FURTHER	We will manage the increasing demand on public sector services and improve outcomes by creating a year on year shift in investment from care services into prevention.	Establish the Council's baseline expenditure on care services and prevention <i>(change measure from 17/18 once methodology established in year 1)</i>	Gifford Kerr/ Helen Lowey	Monitor progress	Establish baseline expenditure by end of Q2	TBC end of Q4 2016/17	TBC end of Q4 2017/18
			Agree a two year Investing in Prevention programme to ensure the delivery of a shift of investment into prevention <i>(change measure from 17/18 once methodology established in year 1)</i>	Gifford Kerr/ Helen Lowey	Monitor progress	Agreement in place by end of Q4	TBC end of Q4 2016/17	TBC end of Q4 2017/18

Portfolio: Children's Services Cllr Maureen Bateson	Strategic objective	Pledge to be achieved by 2019	Performance measures	Good Performance is	Suggested 16/17 target	Suggested 17/18 target	Suggested 18/19 target
Overarching Priority: Providing the best services possible to fulfil the council's statutory and regulatory duties towards the borough's children, young people and their families.							
1. Work effectively with partners to safeguard children and young people including those vulnerable to exploitation, radicalisation or offending.	YOUNG PEOPLE & SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE PEOPLE	Ensuring that children and young people in need of support and protection continue to receive it from the right agencies at the right time for long as they need	Youth Offending: a) First time entrants to the youth justice system (rate per 100,000 – rolling 12 months)	Lower	Beneath the regional and national average	Beneath the regional and national average	Beneath the regional and national average
			b) Proven rate of Re-offending by Young Offenders	Lower	Beneath the regional and national average	Beneath the regional and national average	Beneath the regional and national average
			Number of Open Child in Need cases - not including open single assessments (excluding Looked After Children, Child Protection & Care Leavers)	Lower	400-500	400-500	400-500
			Exploitation measure: Number of young people worked with by Engage where risk is successfully reduced	Higher	Baseline year	TBC end of Q4 2016/17	TBC end of Q4 2017/18
2. Intervene early at the right time to avoid costly intervention wherever possible, including	SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE PEOPLE	Increasing the number of families receiving help through our Child & Family (CAF) Assessment process and Early	Increase the number of families receiving help through the CAF process and Early Help offer to reduce number of children in need cases open to social care	Within a band	Within a band of 350-400	Within a band of 350-400	Within a band of 350-400

supporting those children with additional needs.		Help offer to avoid step up into children's social care.	Number of commissioned residential placements for Looked After Children as a total of all Looked After Children placements.	Maintain	10-20	10-20	10-20
			% of children starting a package of care at Apple Trees within 28 days of the referral panel decision being made	Higher	Baseline year	TBC end of Q4 2016/17	TBC end of Q4 2017/18
			To increase the number of young children with additional needs who receive support through the CAF prior to a Education Health and Care plan being agreed in the future	Higher	Baseline year	TBC end of Q4 2016/17	TBC end of Q4 2017/18
3. For those children who come into care, work quickly to ensure that they achieve permanence without unnecessary delay and their care and learning needs are prioritised.	SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE PEOPLE & YOUNG PEOPLE	Taking the right decisions and reducing the time it takes for children in care to be matched with the right family – providing the best possible outcomes and opportunities for our most vulnerable children and young people.	Adoption scorecard national targets	Lower	Perform at national threshold level	Perform at national threshold level	Perform at national threshold level
			a) Average days from child entering care to starting adoptive placement				
			b) Time taken from court decision for placement order to matching the child with an adoptive family	Lower	Perform at national threshold level	Perform at national threshold level	Perform at national threshold level
			% of care leavers aged 19, 20 & 21 in Education, Employment or Training (EET)	Higher	Achieve at or above national average for 2016/17	Achieve at or above national average for 2017/18	Achieve at or above national average for 2018/19
		% of children in care for 2 ½ years who have remained in the same placement for 104 years	Higher	Baseline year	TBC end of Q4 2016/17	TBC end of Q4 2017/18	

Portfolio Schools and Education Councillor Dave Harling	Strategic objective	Pledge to be achieved by 2019	Performance measures	Good Performance is	Suggested 16/17 target	Suggested 17/18 target	Suggested 18/19 target
1. Ensure that children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (aged 0-25) have opportunities and support which inspire and enable them to achieve their best.	FAIRNESS, EQUALITY AND COHESION & SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE PEOPLE	More children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities making good progress in school. Drive and show leadership in ensuring that partners support improvements with those with complex needs i.e. in health and care.	% of children with identified SEN achieving expected progress in Reading, Writing and Maths from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2	Higher	Achieve at or above national average for 2016/17	Achieve at or above national average for 2017/18	Achieve at or above national average for 2018/19
			% of children with identified SEN achieving expected progress in English and Maths from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4	Higher	Achieve at or above national average for 2016/17	Achieve at or above national average for 2017/18	Achieve at or above national average for 2018/19
2. Continue to work with schools and develop local partnerships to improve learning, training and employment outcomes for children and young people.	YOUNG PEOPLE & WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP	More learners attending schools judged as good or outstanding.	% of learners attending schools judged good or better by Ofsted	Higher	Achieve at or above national average for 2016/17	Achieve at or above national average for 2017/18	Achieve at or above national average for 2018/19
			% 16-18 year olds Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). Reported once a year on the same basis as the national figure, i.e. as an average across November to January.	Low	Achieve at or below national average for 2016/17	Achieve at or below national average for 2017/18	Achieve at or below national average for 2018/19

3. Continue to narrow the gap in academic attainment for children from our more vulnerable groups by removing barriers to success.	YOUNG PEOPLE & FAIRNESS, EQUALITY AND COHESION & SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE PEOPLE	More children from vulnerable groups making good progress in schools and colleges.	<p>Gap in academic achievement for children living in areas in the borough in the most deprived 30% nationally according to the 'Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index' (IDACI) compared to the national average for such areas:</p> <p>a) % of children achieving the new expected standard by the end of KS2</p>	Lower	Achieve at or above national average for 2016/17	Achieve at or above national average for 2017/18	Achieve at or above national average for 2018/19
			<p>a) Average Progress 8 performance for children</p> <p>Progress 8 is the new composite GCSE measure covering English, Maths, other EBacc* subjects and other relevant qualifications.</p> <p>*History, Geography, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Science, Modern Foreign Languages</p>	Lower	Achieve at or above national average for 2016/17	Achieve at or above national average for 2017/18	Achieve at or above national average for 2018/19
			<p>% of children and young people in care performing at nationally expected levels</p> <p>a) At the end of primary school</p> <p>b) At the end of secondary school</p>	Higher Higher	Narrower gap to local peers than nationally	Narrower gap to local peers than nationally	Narrower gap to local peers than nationally



REPORT OF:	EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES
TO:	COUNCIL FORUM
ON:	21st July 2016

SUBJECT: 2016/17 BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS) UPDATE

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to provide an update to Council on the 2016/17 Budget and MTFS for 2016/20 and to present information for consideration and decision on proposals to achieve the remaining savings required for 2016/17.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Further to the information provided within this report, Council is asked to:

1. Note the financial assumptions on which the 2016/17 budget and MTFS is based
2. Note the reduced projected level of reserves at 31st March 2017 outlined in the report
3. Approve the introduction of charges for green waste as outlined in section 5.1 of the report
4. Approve the introduction of alternate weekly collections as outlined in section 5.2 of the report
5. Approve the revision to blue badge parking arrangements as outlined in section 5.3 of the report
6. Approve the introduction of car parking charges at Witton Country Park and the removal of free weekend car parking on council owned car parks as outlined in section 5.4 of the report
7. Note the actions taken to ensure delivery of the workforce related savings required for 2016/17 as outlined in section 5.5 of the report

3.0 INTRODUCTION

We are now into the seventh year of austerity across Local Government in England from the first in-year funding cuts in the summer of 2010. Based on the figures provided in the final Local Government Finance Settlement of 9th February 2016, this approach to managing public sector spending and reducing the national deficit is set to continue until at least 2019/20.

The outcome of the EU referendum has raised significant uncertainty regarding the impact on the economy; this, coupled with the changes in the current government leadership, has raised questions over the approach that a new government may take in

respect of local government funding and addressing the national deficit. However, in his speech to the Local Government Association Conference on 5th July, Greg Clark (Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government) reiterated the message that the current spending plans and funding reductions would remain through to 2019/20 and the planned changes to policy would continue, including 100% Business Rates Retention by 2020.

As such, we cannot afford to wait to see how the uncertainties play out in terms of any subsequent changes in financial approach or policy; the financial position of the council is such that we must progress our financial strategy based on the information that we have been given and the plans that we have put in train to balance the budget as approved at Finance Council on 29th February 2016.

4.0 BACKGROUND

The balanced budget for 2016/17, together with the MTFS for the subsequent years through to 2019/20, was approved by Finance Council on 29th February 2016. This was predicated on a series of challenging assumptions and significant saving plans which require further fundamental reviews of all services delivered across the council to see how costs can continue to be reduced and income streams increased, whilst trying to ensure support is provided to those residents in hardship and also encouraging the growth of jobs, businesses and new housing.

Pivotal to achieving a balanced budget for 2016/17 is the requirement for all portfolios, departments and teams to deliver their services within their individual cash-limit budgets; there is no room for overspend against these targets. In addition to this, to achieve a balanced budget, it is also imperative to deliver on the key assumptions detailed in the table as presented to, and agreed by, Finance Council in February;

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Total projected deficit following receipt of Local Government Finance Settlement (Feb 2016)	26,600	34,900	41,600	47,800
Approved MTFS Budget Surplus/(Deficit)	-	300	(900)	600
Assumptions on which delivery of the budget is based;				
Achievement of the balance of the September 2014 Savings Programme	(6,700)	(10,200)	(10,200)	(10,200)
Delivery of additional portfolio specific savings required for 2016/17	(3,600)	(3,600)	(3,600)	(3,600)

Delivery of the Commercial Strategy Savings (increase in income from increased fees & charges)	(500)	(1,000)	(1,500)	(2,000)
Delivery of Workforce Savings across the Council	(3,000)	(9,000)	(13,000)	(13,000)
Council Tax increase – agreed general increase of 1.99% for 16/17 but also assumed for 17/18, 18/19 & 19/20	(800)	(1,700)	(2,600)	(3,500)
Council Tax increase re Adult Social Care functions – agreed 2% increase for 16/17 but also assumed for 17/18, 18/19 & 19/20	(900)	(1,700)	(2,600)	(3,600)
Delivery against the revised assumptions included in the budget including those in respect of pay and price inflation, interest rates, council tax and business rates growth etc. and change in MRP (capital repayment) policy	(7,900)	(7,200)	(9,000)	(11,300)
Approved Use of Reserves – general and earmarked	(3,200)	(200)	-	-

As can be seen above, Finance Council approved the use of £3.2mill of reserves to balance the budget in 2016/17 as follows;

Unallocated Reserves	£0.571 mill
Earmarked Reserves	<u>£2.646 mill</u>
TOTAL	<u>£3.217 mill</u>

With regards to **Unallocated Reserves**, the utilisation of £0.571 mill was based on an estimate of reserves of £5.163 mill at the start of the 2016/17 financial year, reducing to £4.592 million by 31st March 2017. However, following finalisation of the 2015/16 accounts, the actual level of Unallocated Reserves has reduced by almost £100k from the budget estimate as some of the unallocated reserves were used to balance the 2015/16 accounts. Whilst the amount in itself may not seem that large, it is significant as the Minimum Level of Reserves that the Council needs to hold (as approved at Finance Council) is £4.0 mill and therefore there is minimal scope to cover any unexpected overspends or costs that arise in the year.

With regard to **Earmarked Reserves**, i.e. those held for a specific future use/purpose in the Council, following finalisation of the 2015/16 accounts the actual balance of these reserves at 1st April 2016 has reduced from the estimated level of £16.4mill (presented to Finance Council) to £13.8mill. Therefore, in accounting for usage of £2.646mill during 2016/17, this would result in a balance of £11.2mill by 31st March 2017, of which £6.1mill is held for redundancy costs and possible in-year slippage.

5.0 ACTIONS FOR 2016/17

As noted above, in order to deliver a balanced budget for 2016/17 it is imperative that;

- All portfolios manage within their cash limits AND
- All cash savings and increased income targets are delivered in the year

To this end Executive Members and officers have been working on delivering the savings programmes and initiatives for their areas agreed at Finance Council. Many of the savings required have already been delivered, or are in the process of implementation following either Executive Board/Executive Member decisions already taken or following internal reorganisation, as necessary. There are however several decisions to be taken that will impact on the residents of the Borough which are outlined below for consideration relating largely to the Environment portfolio.

An update is also provided below on the work undertaken to achieve the savings required as part of the workforce related savings for 2016/17 and beyond.

At Finance Council a saving of £521k was agreed in respect of a review of Environmental Services. The following 2 proposed changes will contribute to delivering this budget saving.

5.1 INTRODUCTION OF CHARGES FOR GREEN WASTE COLLECTIONS

Local Authorities can choose to levy a charge to residents for the collection of green waste as the collection of green waste is not a statutory service. A charge is already made by around a third of Local Authorities in the UK, including locally, Pendle, Wyre, Blackpool and Preston. We understand that a number of other Local Authorities in Lancashire are also considering introducing a charge.

Charges and participation rates across the country vary from authority to authority, with fees ranging from £20 to £80 per bin per year and participation from households varying, with some Councils seeing over 70% of properties paying an annual fee for a green waste collection service.

This is not currently a universal service across the borough. There are c.60,000 households within Blackburn and Darwen; of these c.27,000 households currently receive a green waste service. Of the remaining properties which do not receive a service, the majority are terraced properties that do not generate green waste. There are a number of properties however with gardens that could be added to the green waste collection service in future, but at present, due to the lack of available resources to provide the free service to more households, they are not included.

It is proposed that the Council introduces a £25 charge per bin per annum, for the collection of green waste. The green waste collection service would operate for 9 months of the year between March and November with each household on the scheme receiving an alternate weekly collection of green waste.

The introduction of a charge would allow those properties which are not currently provided with this service to join the scheme in the future if they wish to pay for the service.

A reduced take up of the service, upon the introduction of a charge, would inevitably reduce the Council's recycling rate. Green waste collections currently account for approximately a quarter of the Council's recycling rate. Residents would be advised of alternative options for managing their garden waste, e.g. they could take it to their local household waste recycling centre or consider home composting (which has the least environmental impact as it stops unnecessary transportation of materials).

The figures below denote the amount of green waste collected over the past five years:

Year	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12
Tonnage collected	4249	4670	4490	4384	4563

It is estimated that the introduction of a charging scheme for green waste collections across the borough would see a reduction in service costs and would generate c. £200,000 income. Overall, this would enable the Council to reduce the cost of collecting and disposing of green waste.

Based on feedback from other authorities, it is anticipated that approximately 8,000 properties in Blackburn and Darwen would pay green waste collection charges and join the scheme initially.

5.2 INTRODUCTION OF ALTERNATE WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

The Council has been set a target to recycle 50% of the borough's waste by 2020. This is a national target, set by Government for all councils.

With recycling performance currently at 36%, a change is required to enable the Council meet the 50% target. With residual disposal costs increasing annually, and with the requirement for the council to reduce overall operating costs against a backdrop of decreasing public funds, increased recycling and landfill diversion is an environmental and financial imperative. The cost of disposing of commingled recycling waste is £25 per tonne cheaper than disposing of residual waste.

Over 70% of Councils nationally now collect residual waste once a fortnight, with a number of other Councils having moved, or moving, to a collection every 3 weeks which helps increase recycling and reduces costs; every local authority in Lancashire except Ribble Valley Borough Council and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council operate alternate weekly collections of household residual waste.

It is proposed that the Council introduces an alternate weekly collection for residual waste from October 2016. Provision will be considered for larger households with four or more occupants who may be able to change from a 140 litre burgundy bin, to a 240 litre burgundy bin if they request to do so and are recycling. Additionally, those properties serviced by a rural collection service will be required to position their waste and recycling, on collection day, at the junction of their property with the public highway.

The estimated saving from introducing alternate weekly collections is £200,000 pa, with an additional benefit of residents increasing their recycling which will provide a further saving to the Council.

Properties on the Council's assisted collection list will continue to receive that service, albeit on revised collection frequencies as specified above. The recycling service will also continue as it has done for a number of years, with an alternate weekly collection of the grey bin.

At the same time as the introduction of alternate weekly collection of residual waste, the Council is looking to introduce new materials to the recycling collection service, with textiles and WEEE (waste electrical and electronic equipment) being discussed with the Council's contractor, Biffa.

A robust communications plan will be developed for the change to service, as collection round changes will affect all properties within the borough.

5.3 REVISION TO BLUE BADGE PARKING ARRANGEMENTS

It is a statutory duty to ensure compliance with the Equalities Act 2010 and therefore a managed approach to Blue Badge parking is required, allowing availability for Blue Badge holders and visitors to the town centre.

The majority of Councils across the country restrict parking to 3 hours maximum for Blue Badge holders, to enable other Blue Badge holders the opportunity of using Blue Badge bays.

Under the current policy, the Council allows Blue Badge holders to park at both on and off street car parking sites, including all pay and display bays and Council owned car parks, free of charge and for an unrestricted length of time. There are 7,550 Blue Badge parking permits within Blackburn and Darwen and in Blackburn town centre alone, there are 45 designated off street Blue Badge holder parking bays and 40 on-street Blue Badge holder parking bays.

Recent surveys have identified a significant number of Blue Badge holders parking for long periods of time (over 5 hours) in Blue Badge holder parking bays and on-street parking bays. The same vehicles have parked there on a daily basis, thereby restricting the opportunities for other Blue Badge holders to use these spaces.

The majority of the Blue Badge usage is around King William Street, Richmond Terrace, Blakey Moor and Ainsworth Street. These bays are in a prime location for access to the shopping centre and other civic amenities, such as the Town Hall and Registry Office. The surveys highlighted that a number of on-street bays are continually occupied by Blue Badge holders throughout the day by the same vehicles, including dedicated badge holder only spaces, which can be found in key locations such as Tackett St, Church St and Darwen Street.

To tackle the issues identified above, Blue Badge holders will be restricted to a maximum stay of 3 hours for on-street bays, with no return within 2 hours. The rationale for this change is to ensure that parking provisions are being used fairly and

appropriately and to ensure turnover of spaces for other Blue Badge holders and for the benefit of local business.

The Blue Badge Handbook advises that the driver must always refer to signage on site and should never assume that parking is 'free' or 'unlimited'.

It should be noted that this change only applies to on-street parking and Blue Badge holder will still be able to park on Council owned car parks, in accordance with the restrictions of the respective car park. Officers will also work with employers to make provision for Blue Badge holders who work in the town centre and may have specific access requirements. Enforcement action will also be taken in respect of any mis-use of the Blue Badge scheme.

5.4 CAR PARKING

Witton Country Park

Witton Country Park attracts a significant number of customers who use Witton Park Arena and the AstroTurf pitches. The park also attracts significant numbers of visitors who use the play facilities within the park, walk their dog or attend the many special events held in the park throughout the year. Whilst this high level of usage is to be welcomed, it takes its toll on the infrastructure of the park.

It is proposed that car parking charges are introduced in the main car park off Preston Old Road and the large car park adjacent to the Astroturf pitches in early Autumn 2016. The income generated can be used to offset some of the costs associated with operating and maintaining the park and the facilities. Prior to the car parking charges being introduced, the Council will upgrade the lighting in both car parks as the quality of lighting is poor and we have received a number of comments during the darker evenings from customers and users feeling anxious walking to their car, especially if it was located some distance away from the main facilities.

Weekend parking

In September 2012, the Council implemented free all-day parking at weekends on all of the Council owned car parks.

Free parking was introduced to:-

- Give the town centre a distinctive and high profile competitive advantage against other town centres
- Increase the catchment area and encourage new shoppers and visitors
- Reduce the perceived advantages of out of town retail parks and internet shopping and encourage displaced shoppers back onto the High Street.
- Encourage footfall around the Town Centre

During the free all-day parking initiative The Mall has continued to charge for Saturday parking and have not experienced a downturn in the use of their car park on Saturdays. The Council owned car parks closest to the shopping centre have been 85% full before 8.00am, with most reaching 100% occupancy by 10.00am, which suggests that the majority of people taking advantage of the free all day parking on

Saturdays are the staff who work in the town centre on Saturdays.

It is estimated that the re-introduction of charges for car parking on Saturdays will generate additional income of c. £72,000 per year for the Environment portfolio.

5.5 WORKFORCE REVIEW

One of the key assumptions within the 2016/17 Budget and MTFs 2016/2020 is the delivery of Workforce related savings of £13.0mill across the Council.

These were programmed for delivery as follows;

£3.0 million to be delivered in 2016/17

A further £6.0 million to be delivered in 2017/18

A further £4.0million to be delivered in 2018/19

These savings are required across the whole Council but were not attributed to or shared out across each portfolio at budget setting time as the timing and allocation of savings was not known.

A Workforce Review programme was established to support this and several reviews are now in train to support both delivery of the savings required and the implementation of new ways of working and digital solutions for the future. To provide assurance that the £3.0mill savings will be delivered in year across the Council, all areas are closely managing their staffing budgets to make savings including deleting posts that have been held vacant and can now be removed from the staffing establishment.

The Workforce review programme will continue and will support new ways of working to try to mitigate some of the impact of cutting 20% from the workforce. All recurring savings identified this year will be attributed to the relevant portfolio to contribute to the overall £13M savings.

5.6 SUMMARY

As can be seen above the financial position is very tight, particularly in 2016/17 and efforts must be concentrated to ensure delivery of the savings agreed at Finance Council in February. Reserves are now diminishing and no longer provide the same cushion against overspends and slippage in savings as they have done in previous years; there is very little room for manoeuvre.

Strong budgetary monitoring and control together with swift implementation of the savings plans is essential to live within the funding envelope.

6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The budget process is the mechanism by which the Council allocates resources so that it can achieve its policy objectives agreed at Policy Council. The above proposals

contribute to the savings programme presented in the 2016/17 Budget and MTFS which was approved by Finance Council on 29th February 2016.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications are outlined above.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council is legally obliged to set a balanced budget in accordance with the Local Government Act 1992, and must have regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its Council Tax payers and non-domestic rate payers. Under Section 151 Local Government Act 1972 the Council has a general duty to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Decisions taken will affect the resources allocated to service areas.

10.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

All proposals will be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment where appropriate before implementation.

11.0 CONSULTATIONS

The Council is committed to consultation with residents, businesses and partners and stakeholders.

Chief Officer/Member

Contact Member: Councillor Andy Kay, Executive Member for Resources

Date: 21st July 2016

Background Papers: 2016/17 Budget and MTFS

